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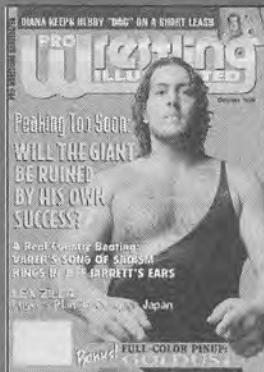
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HIGH HOPES



Now that the man formerly known as Diesel is in WCW, we have some expectations for him. Actually, considering all he accomplished in the WWF in the last three years, he should have great expectations for himself. Apparently a lot of fans expect a lot from him in WCW, too.

"Diesel has the chance to prove himself against some of the best wrestlers in history now that he's in WCW," wrote reader Paula Meyers of Boca Raton, Florida. "I just hope he doesn't blow it."

"I hope 'Big Daddy Cool' cleans house in WCW," wrote Ryan Plenta of Billings, Montana. "Diesel was one of the most dominant wrestlers in WWF history. He held every belt in just over a year. I hope he does the same in WCW."

"I don't think Diesel will be able to handle the competition in WCW," said "PWI Hotline" caller Iris DeSoto of Tyler, Texas. "He never had to face a guy as big as The Giant."

"Diesel better hope more of his WWF friends jump ship to WCW," said "PWI Hotline" caller Danny Munley of Raven Run, Pennsylvania, "because people like Sting will make him wish he never left that circus."



Despite all the controversial and at times tasteless things he does in the ring, Goldust still has at least one fan in reader Denny Burkholder, who feels he has been unjustly criticized.

GOLD DIGGER

I must be one of the few people who believes Goldust is good for the sport and is undeserving of much of the criticism that has been aimed at him. So what if Goldust is frighteningly odd to some people. This is pro wrestling. Does anyone remember The Red Rooster or Doink the Evil Clown? I do, and I also remember changing the channel whenever they were on television. When Goldust is on, however, I am glued to my set. I find it entertaining to watch as he psychologically

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unravels his opponents.

Goldust has emerged as the premier master of mind games in professional wrestling. Failing to recognize the importance of psychology in this sport is a mistake, because mental toughness wins more matches than any other strength. The public outcry against Goldust is proof of just how effective his mind games are. Simply put, fans and wrestlers alike hold the same fears and emotions, and what makes Goldust great is that he not only physically defeats opponents, but he also mentally defeats the fans.

It speaks volumes for Dustin Rhodes to maintain this public persona in spite of the public hostility aimed toward him. A lesser man would have abandoned a good psychological weapon in favor of a few more cheers. A lesser man would be stuck on the undercard of a bad pay-per-view wrestling a bully in the back of a truck. It is unfair to lambaste Goldust for being a bad role model. After all, opponents who react with hostility and violence toward him give the impression that it is okay to be intolerant of other people's lifestyles. Is that a good role model for children?

DENNY BURKHOLDER
Greene, NYI

I'LL TAKE ANOTHER

I've been a wrestling fan since 1977, and over the years I have collected literally hundreds of magazines and dozens of videos. When I wanted to look up a fact or settle an argument about wrestling, I'd spend hours looking through all my videos and magazines



Beulah McGillicutty seems to like what she sees in the PWI Almanac, and she isn't the only one. Reader Eric Thornton wrote to say he can't wait for the second edition of the Almanac to come out!

to find the answer. Now that I have the *PWI Almanac*, I don't have to.

I was surprised to find out that the *Almanac* was actually more like a book. I thought it would be like a special-issue magazine, but it was a pleasant surprise to have it in book form. This smaller size makes it easy to take it with me everywhere. I'm so pleased with the first edition; I can't wait for the second!

ERIC THORNTON
Kent, WA

HYPE-O-CRITICAL

If WCW wishes to lose the Monday night wrestling war, it is certainly on the right track.

On a recent Nitro broadcast, the broadcast team spent almost two hours hyping the main event match, which featured World tag team champions Sting and Lex Luger defending against Rick and Scott Steiner. This was one of those rare occasions when my wife, who is not a wrestling fan, sat down to watch wrestling with me. Even she was appalled at what she saw.

Not even one minute into the match, they switched from a full screen to a split screen so small that you could barely make out who was in the ring on one side. On the other side, we were treated to the thrilling sight of commentators Eric Bischoff and Bobby Heenan talking on the phone with Randy "Macho Man" Savage. My wife picked up a book and started reading it. I didn't blame her.

I am sick of WCW announcers, especially Heenan, talking about matters totally unrelated to what is going on inside the ring. They need to get their priorities straight and start having some respect for their fans.

DAVID MILLER
San Antonio, TX

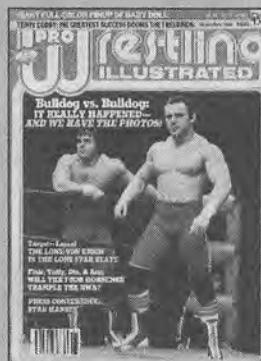
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10 YEARS AGO IN PWI

The cover story of our November 1986 issue featured an account of a match between Dynamite Kid and Davey Boy Smith that took place several years before the two of them formed The British Bulldogs, one of the most innovative tag teams in WWF history. Kid vs. Smith was a match that WWF fans never expected to see, but thanks to a wrestling fan who was there, we got the photos!

Elsewhere in the magazine: Dusty Rhodes' personal valet, Baby Doll, graced the centerfold ... Freebird "Bamm Bamm" Terry Gordy had just won the UWF heavyweight title tournament, but we wondered if his singles success would turn fellow Freebirds Michael Hayes and Buddy Roberts against him ... The fate of the whole Von Erich family rested solely upon the shoulders of cousin Lance Von Erich. Was he ready for the task? ... Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, and Arn and Ole Anderson claimed they were on a path of destruction in the NWA and on their way to becoming a legendary wrestling supergroup. Some wondered if their arrogance would lead to The Four Horsemen's downfall.

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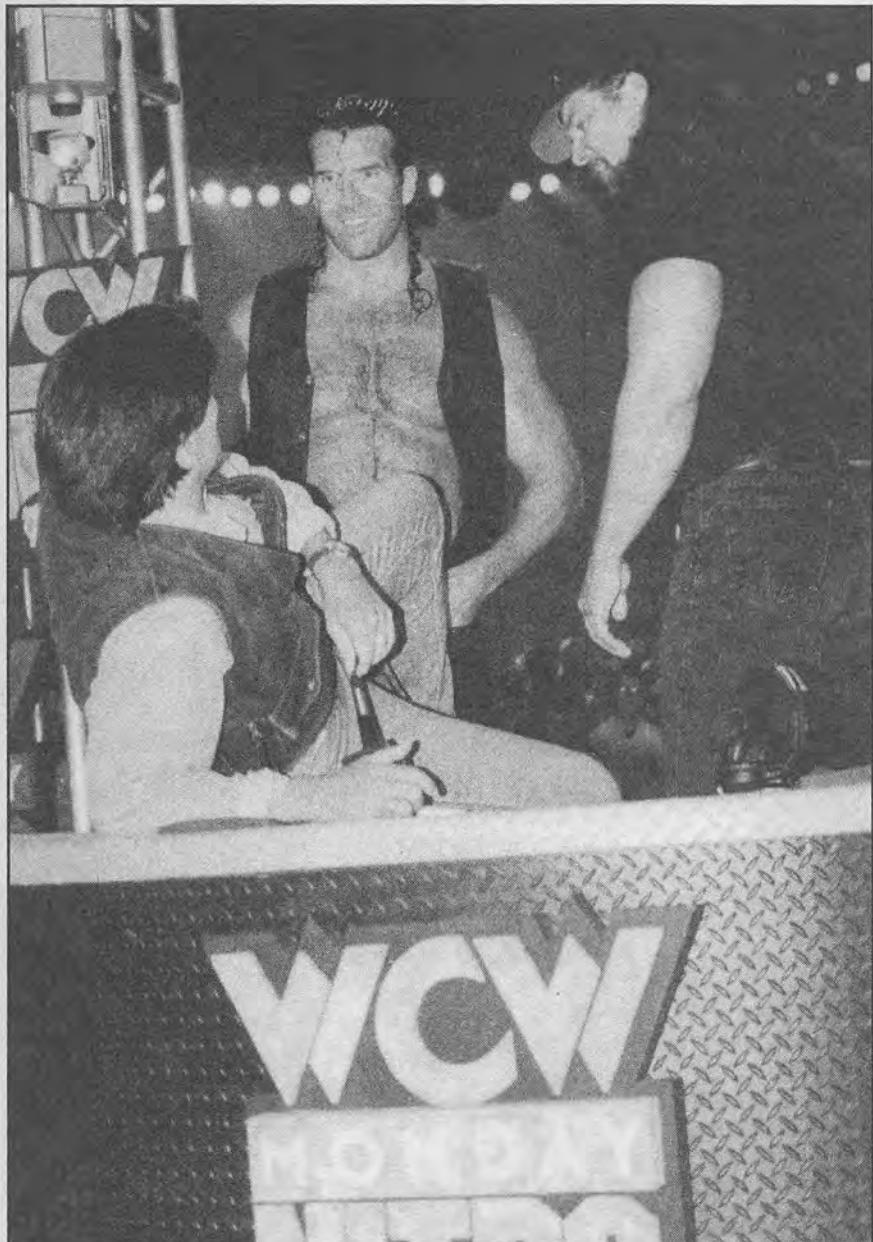
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RINGS

With Bill Apter



Razor Ramon and Diesel threatened to rough up Eric Bischoff at the June 10 *Monday Nitro*, but they did some real damage six nights later at The Great American Bash. Bischoff, however, took no legal action against Diesel after getting power-bombed by him.

ERIC BISCHOFF HAS had some time to reflect on the most horrifying experience of his life and has decided that his best course of action is not to take any action at all. At least not directly.

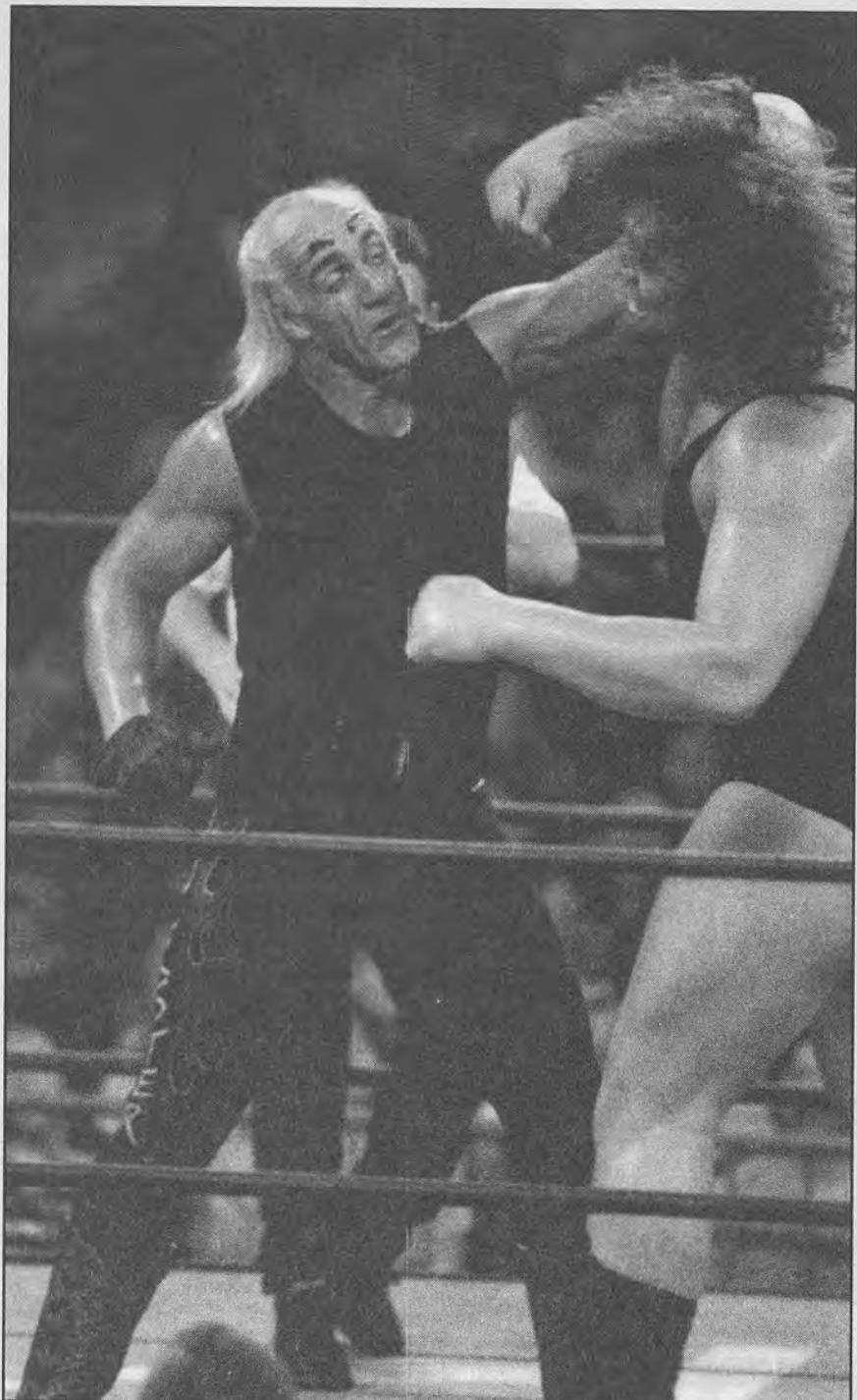
WCW's senior vice president was assaulted—literally, assaulted!—by **Razor Ramon** and **Diesel** while broadcasting The Great American Bash in June. In case you missed it, here's how it all happened:

As Bischoff was interviewing Ramon and Diesel at the Baltimore Arena, Razor asked Bischoff who he and Diesel would be wrestling at the next WCW pay-per-view. Bischoff told them he could not tell them who the opponents would be until the following night during *WCW Monday Nitro*. Razor wasn't satisfied with that and punched Bischoff in the stomach. With Bischoff doubled-over in pain, Diesel grabbed him and power-bombed him right through the stage.

Security guards and other WCW officials ran to the unconscious Bischoff's aid. While that was happening, Razor just flicked a toothpick in disdain toward the crowd as he and Diesel raised their hands and walked off.

Bischoff was taken away by stretcher and transported to the hospital. He was lucky to escape serious injury, though he did not appear on *Nitro* the next night.

In his position as senior VP, Bischoff, of course has the power to ban Diesel and Ramon from WCW competition. He also probably could have brought civil charges against the two men. But that's not the way Bischoff is. Don't be misled by his looks; Bischoff is a tough guy who has competed successfully in kick-boxing tournaments. He's not about to challenge either of these behemoths to a



Hulk Hogan wants The Giant to know that even though he took a few months off from wrestling, he hasn't forgotten about him. He intends to beat The Giant and take away his WCW World title soon.

match, but he can count on the support of the wrestlers in WCW.

As for Diesel and Razor, there is no excuse for their behavior, and I hope they get what's coming to them.

WCW World champion **The Giant** is, according to **Hulk Hogan**,

"feeling too secure in those big boots of his these days." Hogan was on a sabbatical from wrestling during much of the spring and summer (he was making a movie in Canada), but all the while he kept a close eye on The Giant.

"I'll be done with this film soon,"

Hogan said shortly after the Bash. "Next on the agenda, it's time for that big, bad, ugly, stinky Giant to fall! I can already feel the weight of the gold back around my waist. Watch out, Giant, because your worst nightmare is on his way back!"

Hogan also addressed the presence of Ramon and Diesel in WCW.

"You know, brother, the 'Hulkster,' **Sting**, and the 'Macho Man' won't let anyone take over our WCW turf," he said. "They came here looking for a fight, and brother, we're gonna give it to 'em. By the time we finish with these invaders, they'll regret the day they showed up where the big boys play!"

With Diesel and Razor in WCW, two former WCW wrestlers are trying to break into the ranks of the WWF. **Brian Pillman**, still wheelchair-bound because of injuries he suffered in an automobile accident in April, has already signed. It is expected that Pillman, who had been raising hell from his wheelchair in ECW, will rejoin former Hollywood Blond partner **Steve Austin** when he can wrestle again. The other wrestler close to signing at press time is former WCW World champion **Ron Simmons**.

I was so sad to hear of the death of **Dick Murdoch**. Murdoch died of a massive heart attack on June 15 at his home in Canyon, Texas. He began his wrestling career in 1970 and became one of the most violent and feared competitors in the sport.

Murdoch skyrocketed to fame when he became the tag team partner of **Dusty Rhodes** a few months after his debut. Together, they became known as **The Outlaws** and won many regional titles. Years later, they split up, and Murdoch became known as "Capt. Redneck."

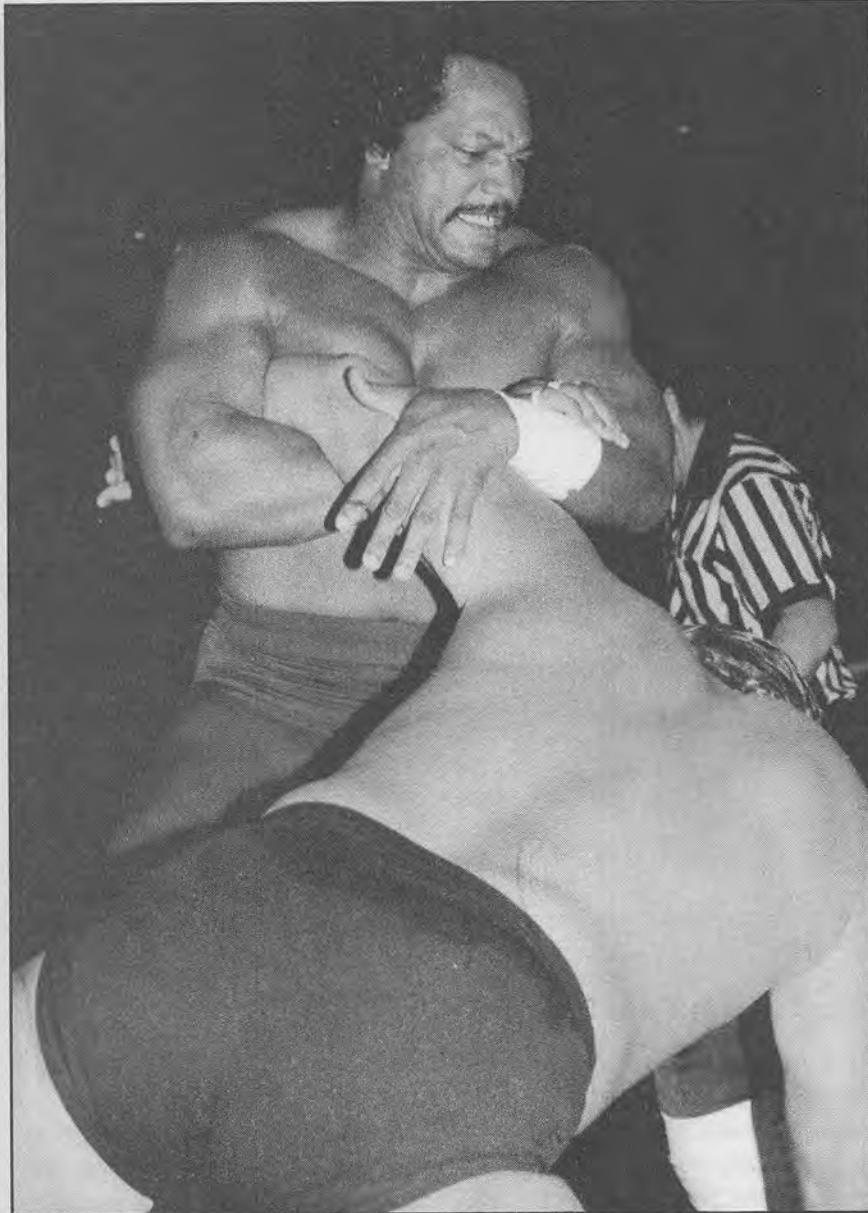
Murdoch went on to wrestle in the Mid-South area, the WWF (where he won the World tag team title with **Adrian Adonis**), and in many other parts of the world, including Japan. But Texas was always his home, and it's always where he enjoyed wrestling most.

All I can say is that Dick Murdoch was one of the most fun-loving people I ever met. I spent a lot of time on the road with him over the years, and what I remember

best about him is his great sense of humor. He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

Among those attending the funeral were **Maria Laverne**, **Dory Funk Jr.**, and **Killer Karl Kox**. "Dick was one of the toughest men I ever faced," said Funk, a former NWA World champion. "All I know is I liked teaming with him better than wrestling against him."

Brickhouse Brown won the vacant USWA TV title in a match against **Bart Sawyer** on June 15.



Ron Simmons has been absent from the wrestling scene for quite a while, but look for the former WCW World champion to make a big impact in the WWF before the end of the summer.



Wrestling lost another one of its great warriors in June when Dick Murdoch died of a massive heart attack at age 49. Murdoch was a mean, tough brawler in his heyday, but those close to him will always remember his sense of humor.

The two of them were deemed top contenders when the title was declared vacant after previous champion **Jesse James Armstrong** lost a match to **Jeff Jarrett** that carried a stipulation that said Armstrong would have to leave the USWA if he lost ... USWA fans now have another reason to hate **Jerry Lawler**. He's being managed by **Scott Bowden**.

Jesse Ventura was fired as host of a morning drive-time talk show on St. Paul, Minnesota's, KDTP-AM radio. Management cited low ratings as the reason for firing Ventura, who had hosted the show for 2½ years ... **Gedo**, **Jado**, and **Hiromichi Fuyuki** are the new Japanese WAR six-man titleholders after their win over **Yoji Anjoh**, **Kenichi Yamamoto**, and **Yoshihiro Takayama**.

It's time now to give you the answer to **Don Laible's** trivia question from our October issue.

(Continued on page 10)

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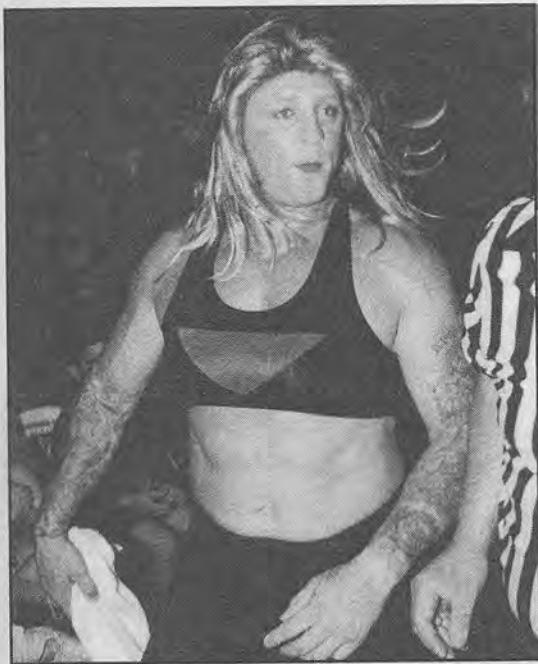
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ringside

(Continued from page 8)



It looks like a she, but upon closer examination, you can tell it's a he. It's Cloudy, the new manager of The Bodydonnas. Skip says Cloudy is just the kind of manager he and Zip were looking for.

Dan Severn humble **Ghetto Blaster**, I'm beginning to suspect that until Dan gives up his UFC competitions, he will never strive for more in this sport than just defending this once-great, but now rather minor, championship.

Savio Vega has gone to the WWF Championship Committee and requested a World title match against **Shawn Michaels**. The Committee,

noting Vega's near-victories over **Goldust** in recent outings, said it would comply with that request in the near future. Given Savio's ability to pull off upsets, I'd give him a pretty good chance.

I'm sure I couldn't work if I were surrounded by beautiful women in the office, so, as I look at the picture we used for this issue's centerfold, I asked **Tommy Dreamer** how he does it.

"I think I work better around sexy ladies," he told me. "I guess I just like to show off for them, so I try a little harder just to make an impression on them. They've made a huge difference in my career."

Maybe that would work for me as well!

That's all for now. I'll see you at ringside! □

The question again: Which former WWF World champion won an NCAA wrestling title and earned all-America football honors in the same year? The answer: **Bob Backlund**, who won a Division II NCAA title at 191 pounds and was an all-America linebacker at North Dakota State the same year.

Now here's this month's question: "While playing tight end for the West Texas State University football team in 1975, **Tito Santana** was catching passes from what all-Missouri Valley Conference quarterback, a man who also went on to have an outstanding wrestling career?" Great question ... and I didn't even know the answer until Don told me.

Cloudy is the name of **The Bodydonnas'** new valet/manager. She—or should I say he—is "exactly what we've been looking for," said a very happy **Skip**. And Skip thinks there's something psychologically wrong with **Sunny**?

After seeing NWA champion



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5 stars Public Enemy run in
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FROM THE DESK OF...

Stuart M. Saks

THE WWF AND WCW are such dominant forces, there is a conception that they have become professional wrestling's equivalent of the National and American Leagues. If you don't make it to either of the Big Two, you haven't made it to the majors.

It would be easy for me to summarily dismiss such a notion with the standard line about all wrestling federations being created equally, that the WWF and WCW might be deeper in talent and broader in scope, but are no better than the rest. And in some cases—most notably a federation like ECW—it's partially true. But in most cases, it just is not true. By and large, the WWF and WCW are better than the rest. That's why they are the Big Two.

Not to be nasty or anything, but there are a few minuscule organizations that are so bad, their heavyweight champions can't even crack the "PWI 500." Unless you live within a three-block radius of where these organizations promote their cards, you probably will never hear about

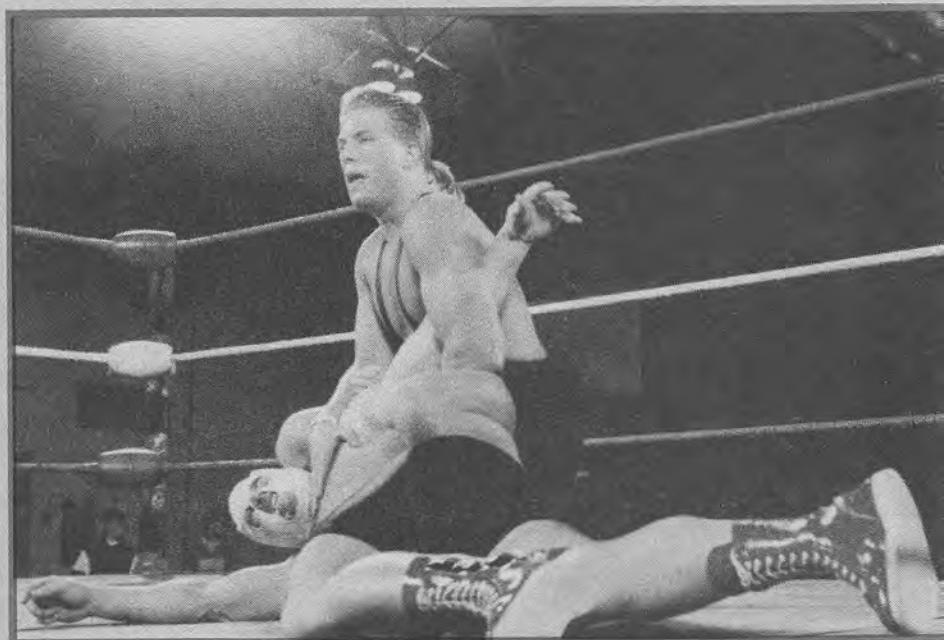
them. While most of the wrestlers in these "federations" would love to trade their part-time wrestling jobs for a contract with the WWF or WCW, most are realistic enough to know that it will never happen. For them, wrestling in the professional style in front of a few people is a step (a painful step) away from being a fan, and they're okay with that. We don't give these wrestlers a lot of coverage in our magazines; we're committed to the committed wrestlers.

If a man really feels that he can make it in this sport, he had better be prepared to make huge sacrifices. That means a full-time training regimen and a full-time wrestling schedule. That means there will be no time to earn money with a 9-5 job. No guaranteed income. A potentially screwed up

family life. And, most importantly, living with the fact that all of those sacrifices will probably not pay off in the end. The harsh reality is that very few people who aspire to become pro wrestlers ever make it to even a point at which they can support themselves, let alone a family.

"It's really quite sad," said 25-year-old Rob Van Dam, who wrestles high on the cards in ECW now (which means he has made it) and will one day be a star in the WWF or WCW (which means he'll have *really* made it). "What happens with a lot of guys is that they give four or five years to their dream, say from 20 to 25. Those are the years others are either in college, or trade school, or working their way up the ladder in their jobs.

"Once those five years have



Rob Van Dam knows what it's like to wrestle in front of only a few hundred fans. It took him years to get recognized as a great wrestler. He advises young people not to go into wrestling without talking to some people in the know.



Van Dam uses a legdrop on Sabu during one of their fast-paced ECW matches. Fans in ECW know how good Van Dam is. Soon fans of the WWF or WCW might get to see him, too.

passed, and they come to the conclusion that they won't be able to make their living as a professional wrestler, they have to start at the bottom. That could mean that you'll be near 30 years old before you can make a decent living."

There were times when things got so tough for Van Dam that he wasn't sure if he could stick it out. "You can get so low at some points, your mind starts to lead you in all kinds of directions," he told me. "The worst is when you just had a tough match, and you're really hurting, and you know you barely have enough money to gas up your car to get to the next match, let alone eat breakfast the next day."

The only thing that kept Van Dam going, he said, is his steadfast belief in his own talent. Van Dam is, indeed, an incredibly gifted athlete. His lightning-quick martial arts kicks, combined with his agili-

ty, flexibility, and surprising strength make him one of the most exciting young veterans in the sport today. "I always knew what I was all about," he said. "The key was to find a way to let everyone else know what I was about before I got too discouraged."

Not everyone is Rob Van Dam, however. What about the wrestlers who lose more than they win, can't fill up their tanks, and don't have a card to get to the next night, anyway? It's a well-known fact that 75 percent of those starting out in the sport either don't make it out of training camp or don't make it to their second year. "Let's just say I know a lot more people who gave up than didn't," Van Dam said.

That doesn't mean that those who gave up are quitters. This sport just makes young men and women grow up real fast in a short amount of time and reassess their priorities. "A lot of people get into

Dam), it is always difficult and sometimes cruel. Without the six-figure income, and with the odds strongly against there ever being one, it takes a very special person to survive over the long haul.

"I would encourage anyone who is starting out in wrestling to sit down and really have a long, long talk with a few people who have been through it all," said Van Dam. "Find someone who has stuck it out and made it, and maybe try to find someone who has not."

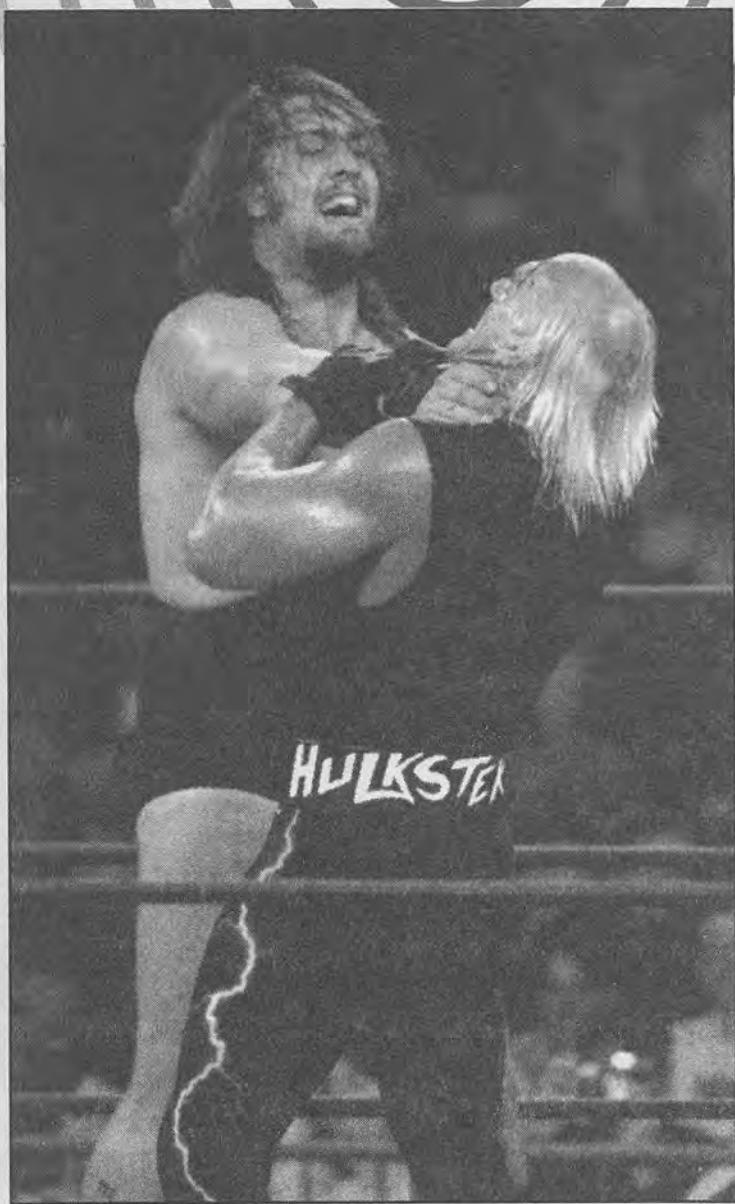
"Look," he added, "I'm not trying to discourage people from following their dream. I just want them to know that wrestling is not a dream world." □

wrestling for the wrong reason," Van Dam said. "All they see is the glamour, a chance to make a living without working. Boy, is that a joke!"

It doesn't take long before these people get an unhealthy dose of reality. The life of a wrestler is tough for even those at the top. For the men at the bottom ("where everyone comes from," noted Van

in focus

By Dave Lenker



When Hulk Hogan wrestles The Giant, logic tells you that most fans would support the "Hulkster," but some would like to see The Giant take Hogan out. WCW doesn't appreciate us making an issue of the fact that Hogan is not universally loved.

IT'S NOT EASY bein' us. It's not easy putting out 43 quality wrestling magazines a year, but we feel like we do a pretty good job. Most of you seem to think so, too, or you wouldn't keep reading them month after month.

But when you're in the publishing business, you better learn quick not to expect too much praise from the people about whom you write. Write a positive story about a wrestler and he'll be the first to thank you, but as soon as you knock him in print, he'll tell you you've betrayed him. Nature of the business.

Lately, though, we've been getting some serious heat from both sides of the WWF-WCW war. So I figure this is as good a time as any to give you some idea of ...

WHY WCW HATES US

Let's start where everything seems to start these days in wrestling—on Monday nights. Are you sick of hearing from WCW broadcasters that "WCW Monday Nitro is the most watched wrestling program each and every week." Well, maybe technically, that's correct. That is, if you take into account the viewership for the replay of *Nitro* as well as that of the live broadcast, then, yes, every week, more people watch *Nitro* than *Monday Night Raw*. But we've been more interested in how the two shows have matched up head-to-head.

Truth is, the ratings war has had no clear-cut winner. Who's winning? Depends on which Monday night you're talking about.

Then there's the Hogan factor. The "Hulkster" is amazing. After 17 years in the sport, he still has this uncanny ability to dominate. Who got up after a Big Van Vader power bomb? Who laughed at The Giant's choke-slam? Only Hogan. He's still a phenomenal athlete, but he's not perfect.

When he was WCW World champ, he didn't defend the belt nearly enough, and we said so. We called for WCW to strip him of the title and we still believe that should have happened. Hogan still has a huge fan base, but he is not the most popular wrestler in the world today. A lot of fans despise him. Some want to see The Giant squash him. They boo long and loud when he cups his hand to his ear. We point this out and aren't afraid to criticize Hogan. That doesn't always go over well in WCW.

Along the same lines, we've criticized WCW for giving some of its older stars too much time on TV while virtually pushing younger sensations such as Chris Benoit, Eddy Guerrero, and Dean Malenko into the background, and even allowing broadcasters to talk about Hogan, Savage, Sting,



Ask any of his opponents in the WWF and he'll tell you Goldust knows just how to stir up controversy. As a magazine, we've made it clear just how we feel about him. Not everyone inside the WWF has appreciated our comments.

and Luger while these younger stars were wrestling on TV.

I could go on ... the number-one slot in the "PW 500" has been occupied by a WWF wrestler in each of the last three years ... we always bring up the forgettable WCW light heavyweight title when we speculate about whether the new cruiserweight title will last ... we're critical of their broadcasters, specifically Steve McMichael ... we emphasize that so many of WCW's top stars are former WWF stars ... we found those "Billionaire Ted" skits funny.

All gripes we've heard recently, but before someone from WCW calls our offices to moan about something else we've printed, maybe he or she should consider all the reasons ...

WHY THE WWF HATES US

Goldust, Goldust, Goldust. It's odd that no one in the WWF has bothered to mention that Goldust is actually Dustin Rhodes, a man who once briefly competed in the WWF before as Dustin Rhodes, and a man who, before showing up in the WWF last winter, never gave anyone any indication that he enjoyed flirting with other men or wearing women's underwear.

We devoted an entire cover of *PWI* to ripping both Goldust/Dustin individually and the WWF as a whole for this. We've also pointed out that the WWF has strayed

from its promise to offer fans great "family entertainment" and, in addition to giving Goldust all the TV time he wants, has been more than happy to show videos of a very scantily clad Sunny on its TV shows. We called this an act of desperation.

Remember the "PWI Poll" in the June 1996 issue? Remember question six, the one in which we asked our experts if they thought WCW surpassed the WWF as the top federation in North America? Fifty-eight percent answered yes. Never mind that we at *PWI* didn't come to that conclusion—we still heard about it. Nevertheless, we still feel the experts we used represented a good and objective cross-section of people tied to the sport.

Then there are the beefs that we do too many stories on those former WWF stars currently in WCW ... that we have been at times too critical of their tag team roster ... that we have put too much of an emphasis on past identities of some of their current stars such as, Sunny (a.k.a. Tammy Fyatch), and former stars like Razor Ramon (a.k.a. Scott Hall et al), and Diesel (a.k.a. Vinnie Vegas).

Okay, maybe hate is too strong a word to describe the way both sides have felt about us at times, but for a company whose magazines do a lot to generate interest in wrestling, we sure catch a lot of grief. But what makes it all worth it is knowing that there are so many reasons ...

WHY THE FANS LOVE US

See all the above reasons. We're not afraid to state an opinion, we don't mind coming down hard on someone (fan favorite or rulebreaker), and we don't conveniently forget a wrestler's past. If a match or a pay-per-view was less than spectacular, we'll tell you it was less than spectacular.

In other words, we tell it like it is. The WWF would have you believe it is winning the war with WCW. WCW will tell you it is. We're telling you the truth lies somewhere in between. Someone has to be the voice of reason in wrestling. It might as well be us.

But it's not easy. □

off the top rope

by Eddie Ellner

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

YOUR DEMANDS INCREASE. Your insatiable appetite for needless, trivial information accurately reflects the vapid quality of your miserable lives. What does Sting eat? Where does Diesel live? Who cares? Will knowing Lex Luger's favorite color change your life one iota, or will it further clog an already-malfunctioning brain circuitry?

It's not enough that these warriors provide you with endless hours of entertainment—time you can spend not thinking about the real issues of life. You keep demanding more. What do they think? Are they married? Can you get them to call me? It's not appropriate to reveal personal information about wrestlers. You pay to watch them compete. They get paid to spill blood and guts. That is where the transaction between athlete and fan should end. Get lives, you cretins.

Dear Eddie,

I have two nephews. Five-year-old Alex loves The Ultimate Warrior.

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE

Box 1148
Ft. Washington, PA 19034



Get a good look at this man, all you helpless young readers out there. Look at him, but don't be like him. Learn to use your mind. Learn to speak coherently and intelligently. The Ultimate Warrior still hasn't.

Nine-year-old Brandon's favorite wrestler is Shawn Michaels. They can do all of the moves the wrestlers can. The problem is they do them on each other. I try to tell them that the wrestlers are professionals and understand the danger, but they ignore me. I'm worried the boys might hurt themselves. Could you have them write to the kids and explain that they should be careful? Thank you.

DOREEN CRUZ
Wilson, NY

Dear Alex and Brandon,

Listen carefully, because nothing less than your lives is at stake—

especially you, Alex. There is a place far away from your home where little boys who constantly imitate The Ultimate Warrior are sent. They stay there for years before they can see their loved ones again. The unlucky ones never come back. They spend all their waking hours puffing out their chests and babbling in strange tongues. For their own protection, they must live out the rest of their lives among others of their kind. Do you want to be sent there, Alex? Do you never want to see Mommy or Daddy again? As for you Brandon, you're cool. Be like Shawn? I'm down with that. But for your own safety, don't try to imitate his in-ring moves. Leave that to the professionals.

Dear Eddie,

I watched Diesel power-bomb Eric Bischoff at The Great American Bash, and I thought it was real cool. Don't you think it would be cool if he did that to all the referees and broadcasters in WCW? Maybe he could go after Dusty Rhodes next. That would be really cool. What do you think?

RANDY GOMEZ
College Park, MD



I almost can't bear to make fun of poor Dusty Rhodes anymore. As much as the evil side of me would have liked to have seen it, it would have been too cruel of Diesel if he had power-bombed Dusty instead of Eric Bischoff.

Dear Randy,

No, I don't think that would be cool, because it would prove nothing. Diesel shouldn't have to power-bomb a helpless broadcaster to show how tough he is. Any man who can win the WWF Intercontinental, World tag team, and World heavyweight titles all in the span of seven months must be tough. Save the power bombs for Hogan, Savage, and Sting, Diesel. Okay, maybe part of me would like to see ol' Dusty put through a table, but I'm starting to show a little mercy on the guy in his old age.



You don't get this kind of stuff in the WWF or WCW every day, but some ECW fans have gotten bored of watching Sabu dive over the ropes and onto 2 Cold Scorpio. I say ECW is doing a lot of things right.

Dear Eddie,

I am a huge ECW fan, and it disturbs me to hear that so many people want ECW to tone down its extreme violence in favor of softer wrestling. Violence is wrestling. If you don't enjoy Sabu moonsaulting onto a helpless opponent or don't get thrilled by

Tommy Dreamer, The Sandman, and Raven ripping one another apart, then you are not truly a wrestling fan. Do you believe ECW should try to get its wrestlers to tone down the violence? Do you believe ECW is the federation that has the brightest future?

ANTHONY McDERMOTT

Haddon Heights, NJ

Dear Anthony,

No and no.

Dear Eddie,

Could you tell us where Hulk Hogan lives? Also Sting, Shawn Michaels, Bret Hart, Randy Savage, and Lex Luger. Also, ask Randy Savage if he can send us a few pairs of his super-cool shades.

DAMARCUS SENEGAL

A.J. TURSKY

Woodville, TX

Dear Eddie,

Please respond to these children's request, as they are counting on a response from your magazine.

ANGIE WHEAT

Sinclair Children Center

Dear Damarcus and A.J.,

First things first, fellas: You want something from me—learn to say please and thank you. As I've said before, I don't think it's good policy to reveal personal information about wrestlers. It's not that important. Watch them wrestle. Then read a book. Then think about how flowers grow. Don't limit your interests to the ring. As for you, Angie baby, don't guilt-trip me. I don't play that. I'm responding to this letter only because I can tell from Damarcus and A.J.'s handwriting that the kids are cool. It takes courage to write to this column. These kids got guts—plenty of guts.

Dear Eddie,

I have a small request for you. Please do not publish this letter,

because it might cause you problems with your other readers. Can you get me information on Sting, Lex Luger, and Razor Ramon? If it's not a problem, could you find out who is married, where they live, how old they are, and when they started to wrestle? I will pay for this information. I know I will never meet them, because big-time wrestlers like Sting—my favorite!—never come close enough to Rockhill, South Carolina. Thanks for your help.

J.L.

Rockhill, SC



Hard to believe a fan actually took time out of her (I think) boring life to write to me asking for personal info on Sting and some other wrestlers. If they wanted you to know where they live, they'd announce it on TV, folks!

Dear J.L.,

What a shame your letter didn't arrive sooner. Sting, as fate would have it, just returned from a week-long vacation in Rockhill. "Great place," he told me. "Just wish I could have met more people, some real diehard wrestling fans." In the meantime, I suggest getting a life, J.L., so the next time Sting visits your neck of the woods you'll have something to talk about. □

TAKE US ON!



#1: Big Ben



#2: Ace Stevens



#3: Jaeger van Dorn



#4: Bodybag Jones



#5: Wildfire Johnny Rage



#6: Eric Darkstrom



#7: Nook the Secret Weapon



#8: Derek Craven



#9: El Diablo Sanchez

WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. AIRPLANE SPIN
2. ARMBAR
3. ARMDRAG
4. ARMLOCK
5. ARM STRETCH
6. ARM WHIP
7. ASIAN SPIKE
8. BEAR HUG
9. BITING
10. BODY SLAM
11. BODY TACKLE
12. CHICKEN WING
13. CHOKE
14. CLAW
15. CLOTHESLINE
16. CROSS BODY BLOCK
17. DOUBLE AXEHANDLE
18. DROP KICK
19. EAGLE SPLIT
20. ELBOW SMASH
21. EYE GOUGE
22. FACE RAKE
23. FIREMAN'S CARRY RAM
24. FLYING BODY PRESS
25. FLYING CLOTHESLINE
26. FLYING DROP KICK
27. FLYING ELBOW DROP
28. FLYING HEAD BUTT
29. FLYING MARE
30. FOREARM SMASH
31. FOREIGN OBJECT
32. FULL NELSON
33. GIANT SWING
34. GRAPEVINE
35. HAIR PULLING
36. HAMMERLOCK
37. HEAD LOCK
38. HEAD STOMP
39. HEART PUNCH
40. HIP ROLL
41. IRISH WHIP
42. KNEE DROP
43. LEGLOCK
44. MANAGER INTERFERENCE
45. MONKEY FLIP
46. OVERHEAD TOSS
47. POLE RAM
48. REVERSE CHINLOCK
49. ROLLING SCISSORS
50. ROPE BURN
51. SAVATE KICK
52. SCISSORS GRIP
53. SHOULDER BREAKER
54. SLINGSHOT
55. SNAP MARE
56. STEP-OVER TOE HOLD
57. SUPLEX
58. SURFBORD
59. TURNBUCKLE SMASH
60. WRISTLOCK

Hurry! Create your own imaginary wrestler and have him face off against any of these IWA veterans—there's no waiting and

★ ★ ★ **NO ENTRY FEE!** ★ ★ ★

Battle one, two, or all ten of these fierce competitors. We'll immediately put your wrestler in one of our 100+ exciting leagues and send him in the ring with the opponents you chose! You will receive the match results, the official IWA Handbook, and your membership card **right away!** Plus, your wrestler will be entered in our Rookie Brawl, and the winner gets an *engraved plaque!*

The Imaginary Wrestling Association is the original and the best play-by-mail wrestling organization *anywhere*. Matches still cost just **\$1⁰⁰ each**, the same low price we started with in 1985! And it's the **ONLY** place where you can win an **ACTUAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING BELT!**

So take us on! Find out if you're tough enough to handle the best! Fill out the coupon below or a copy of it *today* and mail it with **\$1⁰⁰** for each opponent to:

IWA Challenge

Box 5275

Willowick, Ohio 44095



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SET-UP HOLDS

61. ABDOMINAL STRETCH
62. ATOMIC DROP
63. AVALANCHE
64. BACKBREAKER
65. BACKROLL PRESS
66. BELLY TO BELLY
67. BIG SPLASH
68. BOSTON CRAB
69. BRAIN BUSTER
70. BULLDOG
71. CAMEL CLUTCH
72. COBRA CLUTCH
73. CRADLE
74. CRUCIFIX
75. DDT
76. FIGURE FOUR
77. FLYING LEG DROP
78. GOURD BUSTER
79. INDIAN DEATH LOCK
80. NECKBREAKER
81. PILEDRIVER
82. POWER BOMB
83. POWER SLAM
84. RUSSIAN SICKLE
85. SLEEPER
86. SLINGSHOT SUPLEX
87. SMALL PACKAGE
88. SPINE BUSTER
89. SUNSET FLIP
90. SUPERPLEX

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

WRESTLER'S NAME (NO ACTUAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES, PLEASE)

WRESTLER'S HEIGHT

WRESTLER'S WEIGHT

SPECIAL GIMMICK OR DESCRIPTION OF WRESTLER

MANAGER'S NAME (IF NOT YOU)

Wear-Down Holds: Choose 10 from the list of 60 shown at left. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10

Set-Up Holds: Choose 5 from the list of 30 shown at right. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10

Finishing Hold: Create your custom final maneuver or choose a hold from the 90 shown. Limit the length to 20 letters and spaces

FINISHING HOLD

Opponents: Check the numbers of the men you want your wrestler to go against from the 10 at the top. Remember to enclose \$1⁰⁰ for each.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

SUNNY-BURNED

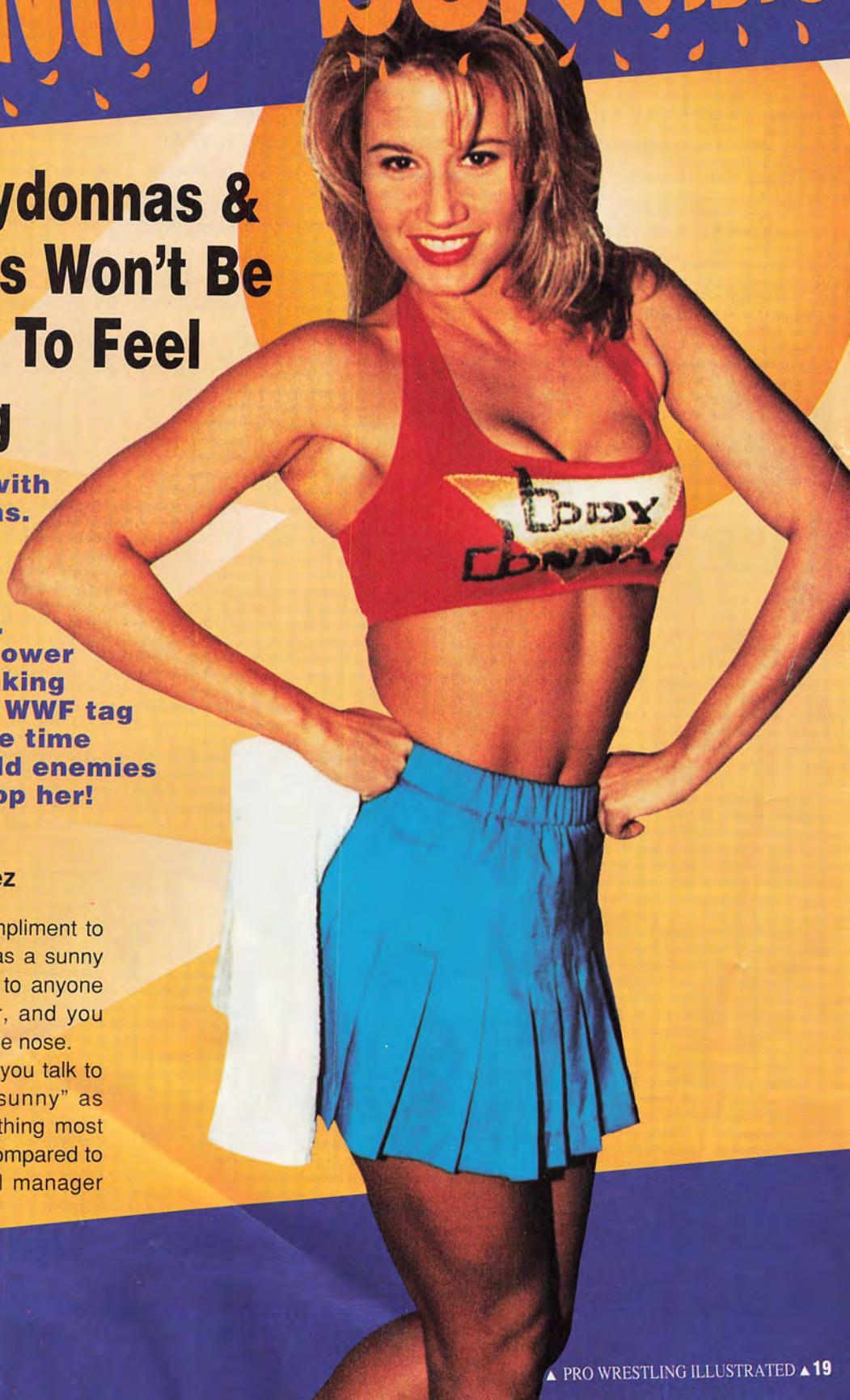
The Bodydonnas & Godwinns Won't Be The Last To Feel Her Sting

First she was with The Bodydonnas. Then The Godwinns. Now it's The Smokin' Gunns. Sunny is on a power trip that's wreaking havoc with the WWF tag team ranks. The time is coming for old enemies to unite and stop her!

By Andy Rodriguez

IT'S USUALLY a compliment to say that someone has a sunny disposition. Say that to anyone in the WWF, however, and you might get punched in the nose.

Because whomever you talk to will inevitably hear "sunny" as "Sunny," and the last thing most of them want is to be compared to the most controversial manager



to hit the federation in years.

Sunny has made a lot of enemies in a short amount of time. From the day she entered the WWF as the manager of Skip, Sunny has joyously antagonized fans, wrestlers, and her fellow managers. Right at the start, she let everyone know she intended to dominate the WWF the way she

had dominated Smoky Mountain.

She hasn't achieved total domination yet, but she has created a lot of chaos. Three of the WWF's top tag teams—The Bodydonnas, Godwinns, and Smokin' Gunns—have experienced firsthand Sunny's particular brand of turmoil.

When The Bodydonnas—Skip and Zip—captured the World tag

team title at WrestleMania XII, Sunny received most of the credit for their success. But when The Bodydonnas lost the belts to Henry and Phineas Godwinn, Sunny became very dissatisfied.

"She has zero patience," said broadcaster Dok Hendrix, "and she didn't want

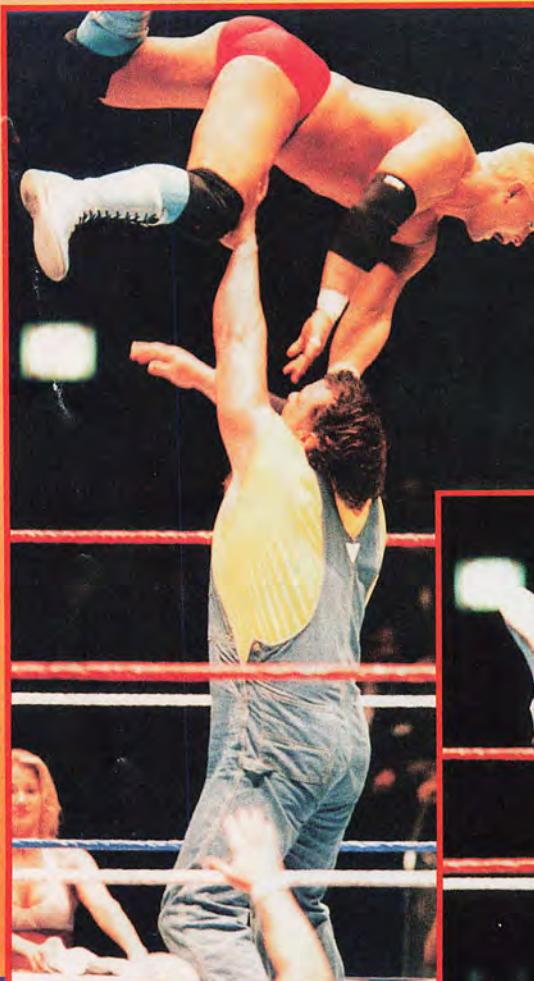
anything to do with them afterward."

Instead of trying to figure out how to regain the belts for her team, Sunny convinced Phineas, who has a tremendous crush on her, to sign a paper making her his co-manager for the Godwinns' title defense against The Smokin' Gunns at *In Your House VIII*.

Her secret aim? Infiltrate the Godwinns' camp and learn all about their strengths and weaknesses.

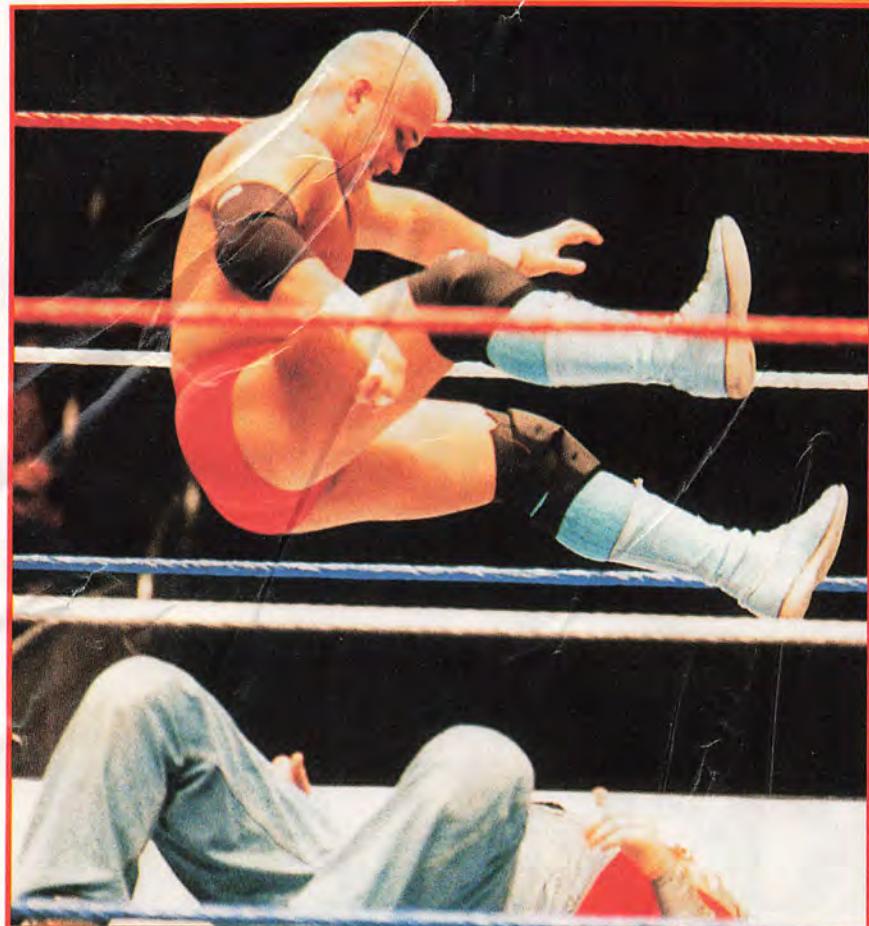
On the night of the match with the Gunns, when she climbed up on the ring apron during the bout, Billy Gunn grabbed her and gave her a passionate kiss, one she enjoyed. As Phineas watched, heartbroken, Bart Gunn suplexed him and scored the pin to give the Gunns the title.

Again, Sunny went with the



Skip gets lifted up (above) and thrown down by Henry Godwinn (right) during a Bodydonnas-Godwinn match in the spring. It's time these two teams put aside their differences and went after a certain common enemy—a devious female enemy.





Sunny could probably predict when Skip would try a legdrop against Phineas Godwinn (left) ... or when Henry would try to slingshot Skip into a corner (bottom left). She knows both teams so well, and that's what makes her so dangerous.

winners. The next night, she made her debut as the Gunns' manager and watched them defeat The Bodydonnas.

"I go where the money is!" she explained and exclaimed. "I go where the gold is!" With that attitude, Sunny has left some confused people in her wake.

Skip is demanding that Sunny, in his words, "come to her senses." He even claims there is a clause in the contract he and Zip have with Sunny that prevents her from managing other teams. He's so angry he's ready to take her to court and is accusing her of having "menta' problems."

Phineas Godwinn, on the other hand, is just lovesick. As far as he's concerned, his sweetheart deserted him.

The Gunns, though, are feeling good. Billy and Bart have the belts, and they're willing to credit Sunny for their good fortune.

"She's the best," said Billy. "We're really excited. She's going to take us a long way."

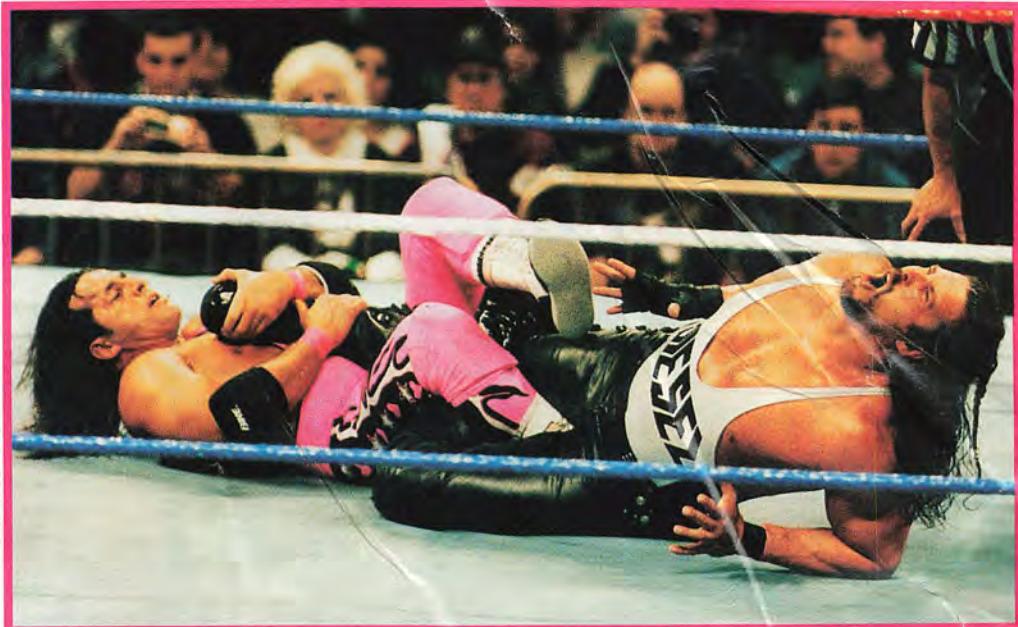
Sunny is taking them all right her critics say, but probably not where they want to go. She's taking them for a ride.

"Those boys are pretty naive," Jim Cornette said. "After what she did to those other teams, do they really think she'll stick by them? They lose and she'll be out of there in two seconds. She pretty much admits that herself!"

Others say Sunny's plans are even more devious, that she is quietly putting together scouting reports on all the teams in the WWF. It makes sense, too. She has managed The Bodydonnas,

(Continued on page 58)





Bret Hart beat Diesel for his third WWF World title last year and gained a reputation for being able to beat bigger and stronger men. Now he's talking as if we've seen the last of him in the ring.

BRET HART

THE BELL TOLLS for Bret Hart, but neither Shawn Michaels nor Davey Boy Smith is the one beckoning to him.

It is 6:50 on a pretty June evening in Calgary, and "The Hitman" is going in two directions, as has been the case of late. There is the interview that he has agreed to do—it is due to begin momentarily. Suddenly, though, Hart remembers that he has to take his son Dallas for drum lessons.

Hart ponders this dilemma, then consults with his ever-supportive wife, Julie, who offers to play chaperone for their percussionist son.

Problem solved. The interview can go on as scheduled.

This is what has become a typical night in the life of wrestling's "Excellence Of Execution." To wrestling fans, however, it probably sounds like an atypical day in the life of one of the WWF's most popular and most successful wrestlers of all-time.

Bret Hart, "The Excellence Of Fatherhood"? For now at least, yes. Three months after losing the WWF belt to Michaels in a controversial "Iron Man" match, Hart is adapting to a life that, at least for now, excludes wrestling.

Instead of facing off against the motley likes of Jerry Lawler, brother Owen, and Michaels, Bret is reacquainting himself on a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week basis with his wife, sons Dallas, 11, and Blade, 6, and daughters Jade, 13, and Alexandra, 8. An accomplished cartoonist, one of eight owners of a Canadian junior hockey team, and a budding actor, Hart is looking into life beyond the squared circle.

Does this mean "The Hitman" has fought his last battle as a wrestler? Senior Writer Bryan Ethier spoke to him about that and much more.

BRYAN ETHIER: You've been away from wrestling for a few months now. After receiving favorable reviews for your performance in the series *Lonesome Dove* last year, have you made any further efforts to get into acting?

BRET HART: It's hard to say. It's not like you can just jump into an acting career. You make yourself available and try to find the right project that comes along. You don't sell out your principles and end up in a show that you might

"To see [Shawn Michaels] hold this image as a male dancer ... makes me ill. It always has. People ask me why I didn't shake his hand at the end of WrestleMania. I don't want to endorse him."

not be too happy about or do a television show that would cause you some discomfort somewhere down the line. You don't want to do something in acting that would jeopardize your doing something positive or constructive. The performances I gave in *Lonesome Dove* were genuine and accepted as decent performances. The acting world is something I'm pursuing, but there's nothing pre-set.

ETHIER: How has your success as an actor and a cartoonist precipitated your decision to take a leave of absence from wrestling?

HART: Many, many years ago

when I got into wrestling, I set out to accomplish a lot of things. In a lot of areas, I've accomplished everything I could have ever hoped to. It's done. So I can go back and try to repeat it again, and there is some satisfaction in that. Of course I've had other dreams and goals I'd like to fulfill, too. I would like to do more cartoons; I used to be a great cartoonist, and I guess I still am. I would like to possibly write a book, not necessarily on wrestling, either. I wouldn't mind doing a comic strip or a comic book. That would combine both talents. I've had my cartoons published in the *Calgary Sun* (for which he has written a column for nearly six years). It's kind of a hobby, but it's something I put a lot of work into to make sure it's decent.

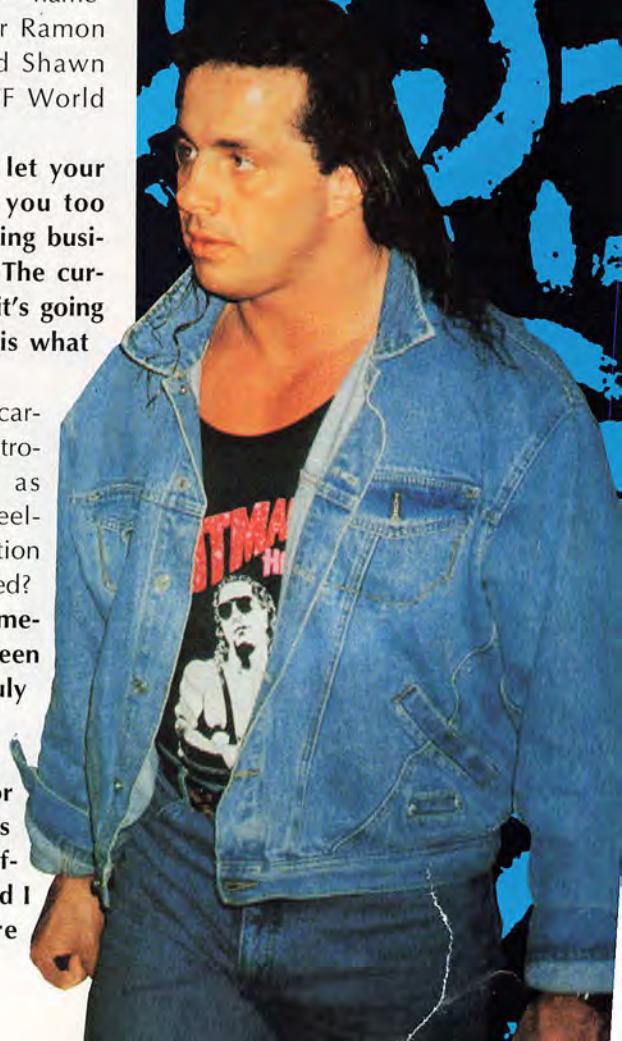
ETHIER: You're admired for your integrity and standards. How difficult has it been for you to see some of the changes in the WWF—namely the departure of Razor Ramon and Diesel to WCW and Shawn Michaels becoming WWF World champion?

HART: You never can let your personal feelings get to you too much, because the wrestling business is often like a river: The current's going to go where it's going to go. I guess what sells is what works.

ETHIER: That river has carried with it successful, controversial wrestlers such as Goldust. What are your feelings on him and the direction in which the WWF is headed?

HART: I feel there's something missing since I've been gone. That is, maybe a truly defined hero. I'm very proud of what I represented as a hero; I stood up for myself and faced all kinds of tough opponents of different shapes and sizes, and I accepted the most severe

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.



challenges. I always did it with my head held high and with integrity. "The Hitman" never gave less than 100 percent. I always went up against the wall with The Undertaker and Yokozuna and a lot of other guys and never backed down. If I needed to bite his head to get out of a bearhug, I did it. That was the way I was brought up. Not to win at all costs, but also not to let some big guy push you around and get away with breaking the rules. And I think that's a good message for kids. I was never a troublemaker; I was always open and honest about how I fought.

ETHIER: Now that you've had some time to reflect on your heart-breaking defeat to Shawn Michaels at WrestleMania XII, how would you rate him as a champion and a hero?

HART: To see him hold this image as a male dancer—a guy who takes his clothes off and the little dance he does getting into the ring—makes me ill. It always has. People ask me why I didn't shake his hand at the end of WrestleMania. I don't want to endorse him. I don't like the way he handles his responsibility as a role model.

ETHIER: Is it conceivable for a wrestler to be a role model when you consider the oneupmanship that is occurring between the WWF and WCW?

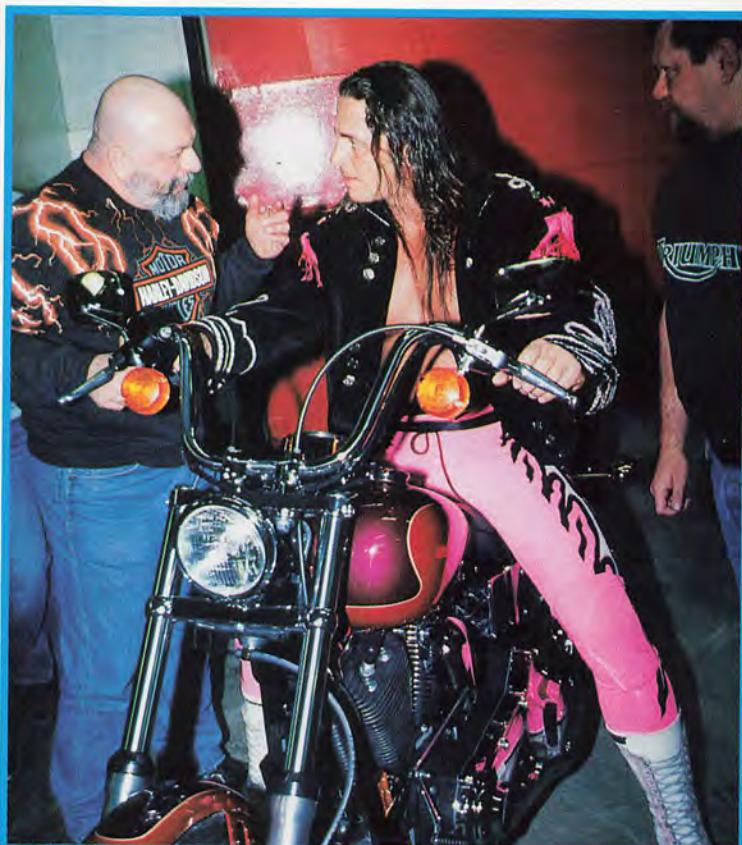
HART: I don't know. For me, I've been around the world and seen how significant it is to be this legendary role model. I've had little kids in Israel mob me at the Wailing Wall. I've had little Irish kids in North Belfast and Northern

Ireland—Catholic and Protestant kids—holding my hand at the same time. I've seen kids in India in incredible poverty that are so emotionally overcome when they actually see you in person and see that you're not a cartoon character. You're not a figment of their imagination. You're a real human being who fights these people. I'm very serious about being a hero; I don't attach a price tag to that. These kids believe what I say, what I stand for. Too many guys get into wrestling now for the money. Loyalty's more important.

ETHIER: Your blood war with Owen seems to have taken a back-seat to your sister Diana's accusations that Shawn Michaels has harassed her. What are your feelings about having family members drawn into the wrestling fray?



Despite giving one of the greatest efforts of his career, Hart lost the WWF title to Shawn Michaels at WrestleMania XII. He has nothing good to say about "The Heartbreak Kid" at this point.



Bret brought his son Blade to this year's Slammies (above left). He's now enjoying full-time fatherhood. And since he has distanced himself from wrestling, he'll have more time to devote to hobbies such as motorcycle riding if he so chooses (above right).

HART: Since WrestleMania, I've kind of distanced myself from it. I haven't watched the show. I have not been involved in anything that my sister Diana did, or what Owen's been doing or what Davey Boy's been doing. In wrestling, you can't let other people's view clutter yours. I can't worry about what Owen is doing or what Davey Boy's doing. You just hope the right things happen to the good people. I've always felt I'm the intelligent fan's wrestler.

ETHIER: Is there a place in wrestling today for an "intelligent" wrestler such as you?

HART: I don't think there are enough fans who appreciate a wrestler who has a little integrity, who doesn't have the same match every night. There aren't enough who appreciate a wrestler who applies total and complete logic for every match and who doesn't just

dip into the well and do what he did the night before—someone who isn't overcome by his image and persona. I'm the same guy that I was when I got into this business.

ETHIER: How do you wish to be remembered as a wrestler?

HART: I don't want to be remembered as a guy who held on too long, who sold out his feelings at the very end so he could make a few bucks.

ETHIER: In what direction is the WWF going?

HART: The positive thing I can say about the WWF, as opposed to WCW, is that the WWF seems to try to make an effort to go forward all the time. I like to see guys like Steve Austin or my brother Owen, because no one can say they're not good wrestlers.

ETHIER: Has being a dedicated father of four affected your decision to take a break from wrestling?

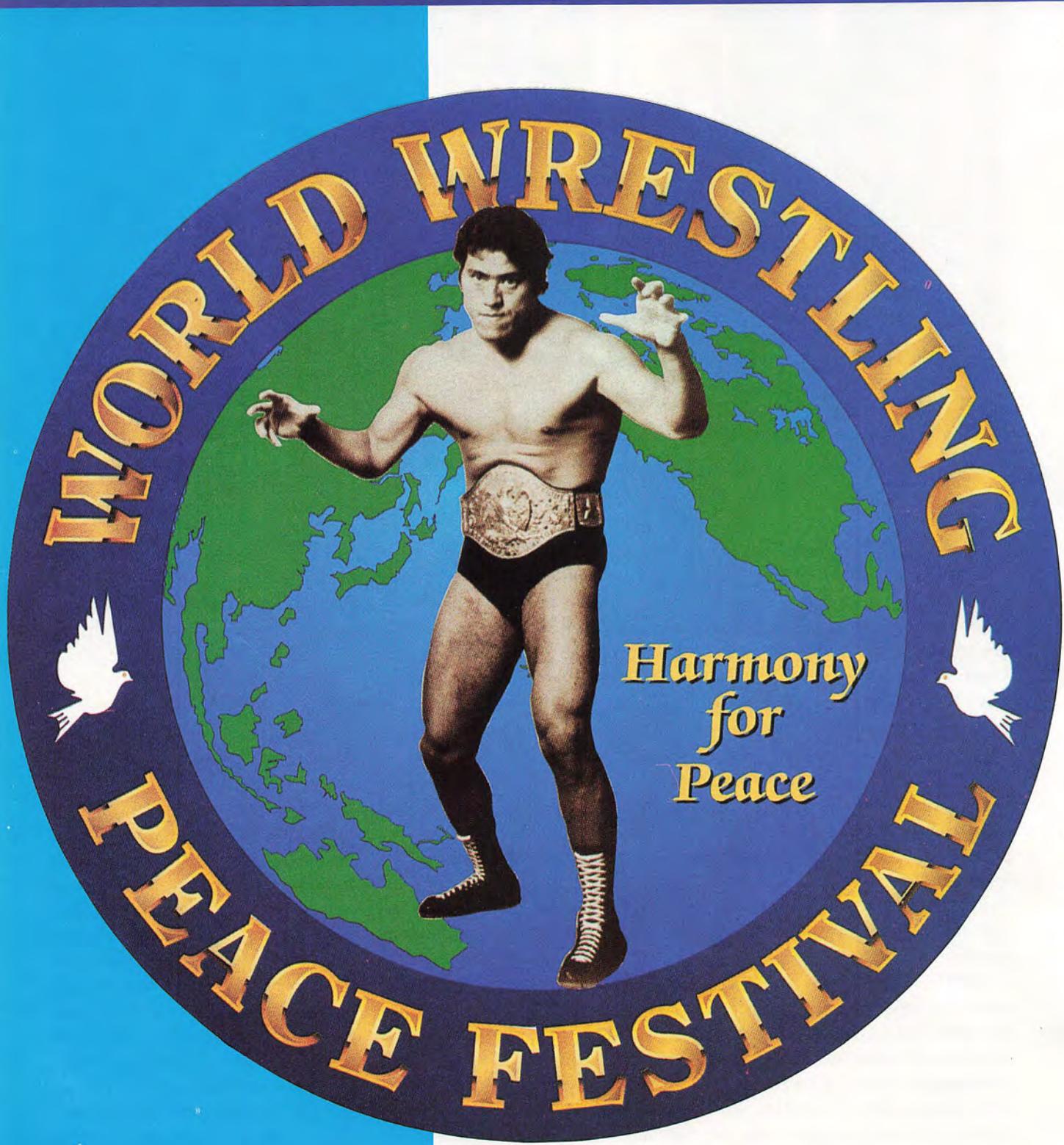
HART: I've wanted to be home with my kids for years. You can't just put your family on hold forever, because eventually they grow up, and they're gone.

ETHIER: Have we seen the last of Bret Hart inside the ring?

HART: I don't know. I really don't know. I know there's a lot of people talking like it's a plan—that I will just come back and walk right back into wrestling like it was orchestrated or planned from the beginning. I have to have a reason and desire to come back. Maybe what I'm hoping for is people will realize that something's missing in the wrestling world and they'll appreciate that what I offered wasn't so much good, but that it was just wholesome, better. If it ended tomorrow morning and I woke up and said, "I don't need it, I'm done," I'd be really proud of what I accomplished and what I got in return. □

MULTI-PROMOTIONAL

World Wrestling Peace Festival



SUPERCARD!

Unites The World!

Antonio Inoki was presented with a special PWI Lifetime Achievement Award after the World Wrestling Peace Festival card had ended. We can't think of anyone more deserving of such an honor.

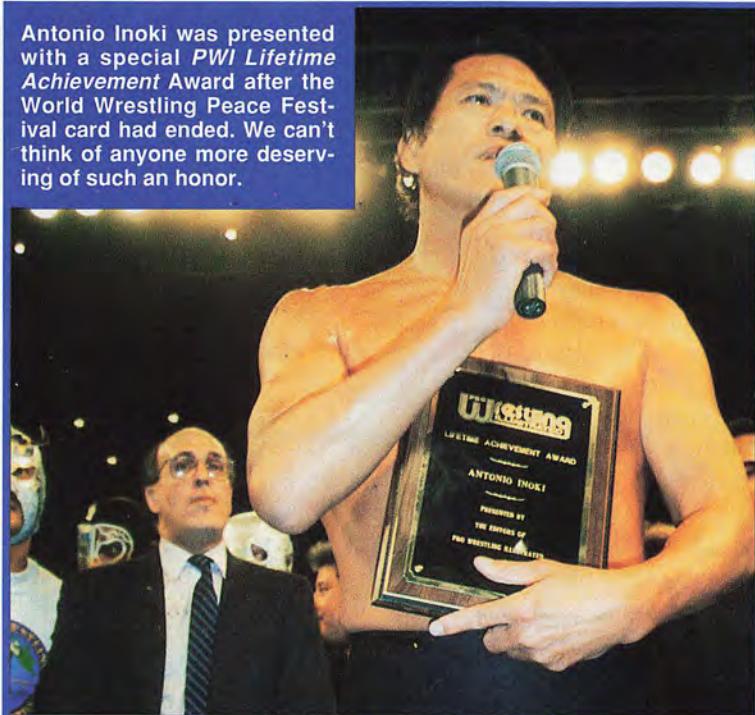


Photo by Mike Lano

By Dave Rosenbaum

WHEN HISTORIANS ONE day discuss the great leaders who helped achieve world peace, they'll debate the merits of Mikhail Gorbachev, Yitzhak Rabin, Ronald Reagan, Henry Kissinger, and Margaret Thatcher. It's unlikely they'll discuss one man who has made his small, yet significant contribution to bringing together the world's citizens. His name is Antonio Inoki, professional wrestler, and he's one of the few athletes who likes deflecting attention from himself.

But there was no avoiding Inoki's immense contribution when the first World Wrestling Peace Festival was held at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. This was his child, born of a lifelong dream that by bringing people together in sports, he can bring them together in the endeavor of peace, too.

"It was a week to remember," said Inoki, who has never won the Nobel Peace Prize, but received a rather nice honor nonetheless when he was honored with a PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED Lifetime Achievement Award at the end of the

One small step was taken to world peace and harmony when federations from around the world got together for one night, thanks to Japanese legend Antonio Inoki. But was it a success? For the most part, yes

Photos by Bill Apter

The high-flying Chris Jericho, who wrestles in Japan, ECW, and elsewhere, showed why people call him the high-flying Chris Jericho when he leaped onto WCW U.S./AAA heavyweight champion Konnan during a triangle match.



show. "Many people worked very, very hard to put this event together, and it was a success."

History will record Inoki as one of the greatest wrestlers ever and most likely the most successful Japanese wrestler of all-time, but perhaps Inoki's wrestling accomplishments have already been overshadowed by his public service. Several days before the Peace Festival, Inoki was made honorary police chief for a day in California's Little Tokyo community, where residents turned out to meet their hero in a rare visit to the United States.

In fact, this was the first time that Inoki, who has put together cards in Japan and last year organized two incredible shows attended by hundreds of thousands in Korea, organized a card in North America. But what better place than Los Angeles and what better symbolic gesture than to bring together EMLL and AAA, two Mexico-based promotions whose rivalry is similar, and possibly more heated, than the one between the WWF and WCW?

Unfortunately, event organizers

It was masked man vs. masked man when The Great Sasuke locked up with Jushin Liger at the Peace Festival (Liger won). It was one of the best matches on a card full of outstanding matches.

failed in their attempt to have WWF wrestlers on the card, an indication that relations between the WWF and WCW are too strained for even Inoki to smooth over. But getting EMLL and AAA together was an achievement nobody thought possible.

"It was tough, but it went off better than anticipated," said Bob Cartega, one of the event organizers. "The thinking is that if you can get enemy wrestling federations together, it should overflow to the world in the name of peace and harmony. Maybe many other people can start thinking that way."

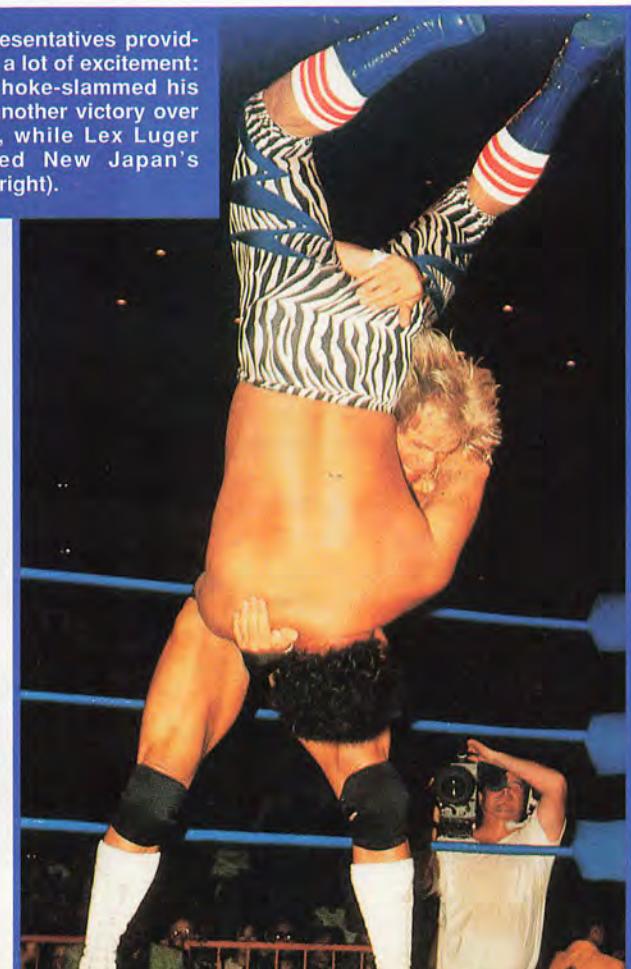
It's not that much of a reach. The Olympic Games, in fact, originated in Greece as a two-week athletic break between warring countries. Today, in supposedly more civilized times, wars aren't interrupted for the Olympics, which have

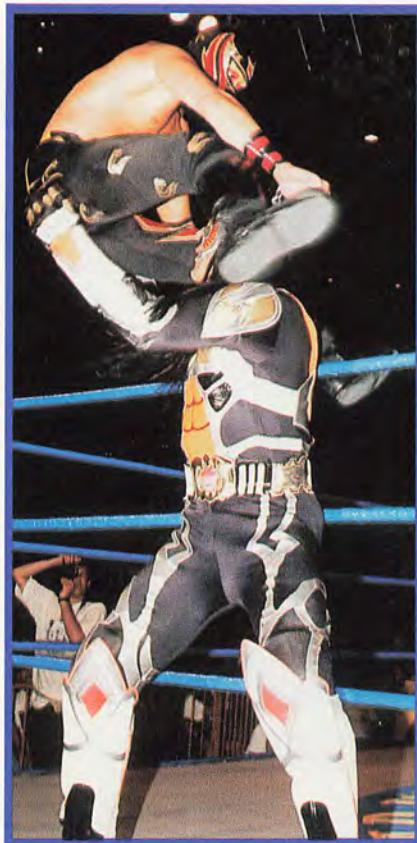


become a political tool. But Inoki is willing to use the World Wrestling Peace Festival as a tool of peace.

The second annual event has already been scheduled for May 1, 1997, in Mexico City, and the two

WCW's representatives provided fans with a lot of excitement: The Giant choke-slammed his way to yet another victory over Sting (left), while Lex Luger overpowered New Japan's Masa Saito (right).





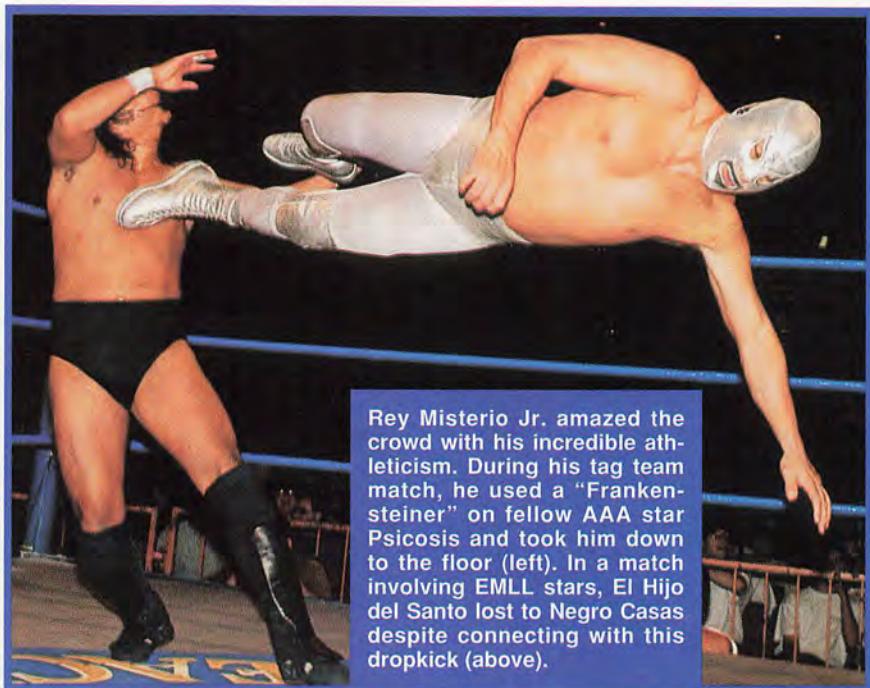
Mexican federations will be there, along with wrestlers from New Japan.

"We'd love to have the WWF and WCW, too," Cartega said.

Is it a dream? Well, consider the lineup for WWPF I: Chris Benoit, Lex Luger, Rey Mysterio Jr., Alex Wright, Negro Casas, Tatsumi Fujinami, Konnan, Chris Jericho, Jim Neidhart, Bam Bam Bigelow, Jushin Liger, WCW World champion The Giant, Sting, Inoki, Dan Severn, Oleg Tatarov, and Yoshiaki Fujiwara. It was a veritable world market of wrestling stars. (For complete results, see "Arena Reports," page 48.)

The only disappointment was the attendance, which event organizers estimated at a shade under 6,000. Perhaps the location wasn't perfect, and it surely would have helped had there been more advertising for the event, but Cartega said that next time, the show will be televised either on cable or pay-per-view TV. The good news is that a videotape of the show will soon be available, and Cartega calls it a blockbuster.

"It was one of the best things I've ever been involved with," said Severn.



Rey Mysterio Jr. amazed the crowd with his incredible athleticism. During his tag team match, he used a "Frankensteiner" on fellow AAA star Psicosis and took him down to the floor (left). In a match involving EMLL stars, El Hijo del Santo lost to Negro Casas despite connecting with this dropkick (above).

"I wish there were more cards like this. I had a great time, but more importantly, I felt like I was doing something important for the world."

There was more to this weekend than wrestling. A banquet was held the night before the card, at which Muhammad Ali, who couldn't attend due to unforeseen problems, sent a special message of peace that was read to the attendees. That same day, representatives from all of the promotions involved sat down for a lengthy meeting.

"The whole thing revolved around Inoki and his message of peace and harmony," Cartega said. "Some people want to save the rain forests. He wants to save the world by getting people together."

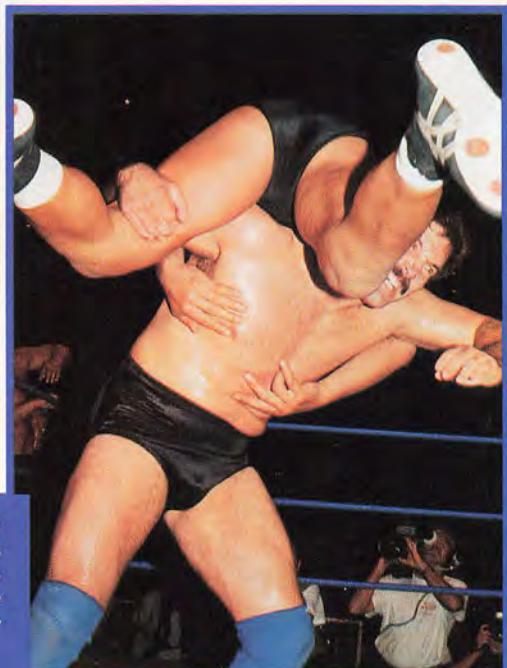
There was an outpouring of emotion at the end of the card when all the wrestlers on the card came to the ring to watch PWI Senior Editor Bill Apter give Inoki the Lifetime Achievement Award. Later, outside the dressing room,

Inoki was given a standing ovation.

"There are few men in wrestling who we can truly call legends," Apter said. "Antonio Inoki is not only a great athlete, but also a great man and a fine ambassador for racial harmony."

"He deserves all the accolades he gets," said Steve Nakada, another one of the event's organizers. "I'm sure he'll make the event even better next year."

On this weekend, wrestling and the world could have no better spokesman. □



NWA/UFC champion Dan Severn was especially aggressive in his tag team match. Here he takes down Yoshiaki Fujiwara en route to a victory for him and his partner, a Mr. Inoki.

THE WAR TO END

Exclusively for the readers of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, WWF World champion Shawn Michaels and WCW World champion The Giant offer their slant on the dream match that will never be. Enjoy it.

It's as close as we're going to get to what would be the Match of the Century!



HOW I WOULD BEAT SHAWN MICHAELS

By The Giant

I TRY TO have respect for all my opponents, but I find it hard. Anyone who steps into the ring with me must think he has a chance of winning, and if he's that stupid, how can I respect him?

If Shawn Michaels thinks he can beat me, well ...

Okay, I'll give him the credit that anyone in this sport deserves. If you're brave enough to get in that ring—I don't care who you're wrestling—face it, you're putting your life on the line. All those guys who have wrestled me, I tried to have a little sympathy for them, but once that bell rings, I'm gonna do what I'm gonna do. They're not going to tell Mark McGwire to bunt, are they? Of course not.

I'm The Giant, and I go for a home run every time I step up to the plate.

Shawn Michaels? He's good—no better than a lot of guys I've faced—but good. He's got a lot of experience. He's also got a lot of heart. He's the kind of guy that just won't give up. He had a goal, and he wouldn't allow himself to stop short of it. That says something about what's inside him.

Physically, we're at complete opposite ends of the spectrum, of

(Continued on page 60)

ALL WARS!

HOW I WOULD BEAT THE GIANT

By Shawn Michaels

FIRST THING, I don't make a habit of boasting about who I could beat, but I'm also not one to avoid a direct question. If you want to know how I would do against The Giant, I'll tell you, and I'll hold nothing back.

Would I wrestle The Giant? I'd take on anyone, if they had the guts and talent to become a WWF wrestler.

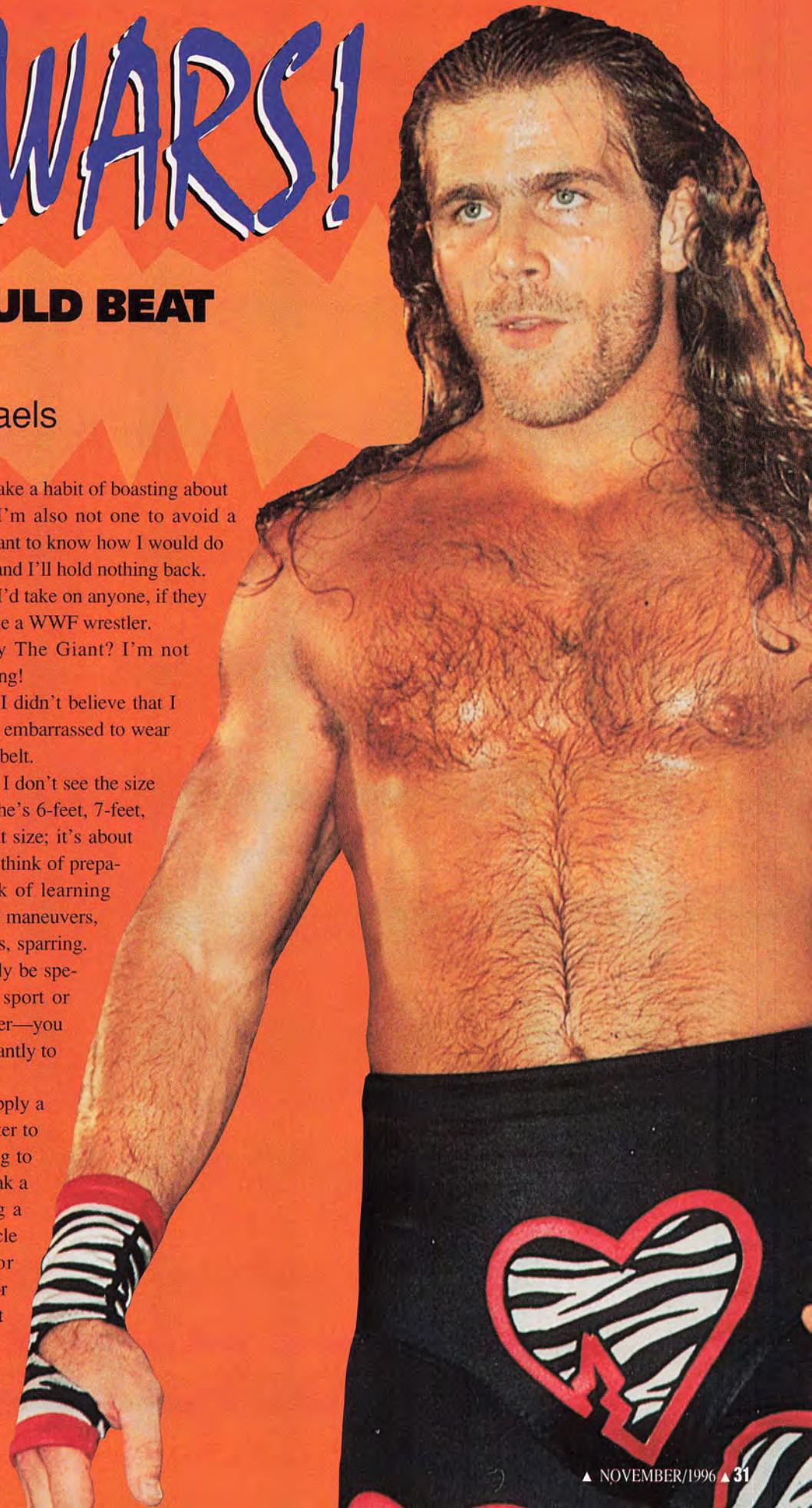
Would I be intimidated by The Giant? I'm not intimidated by anyone or anything!

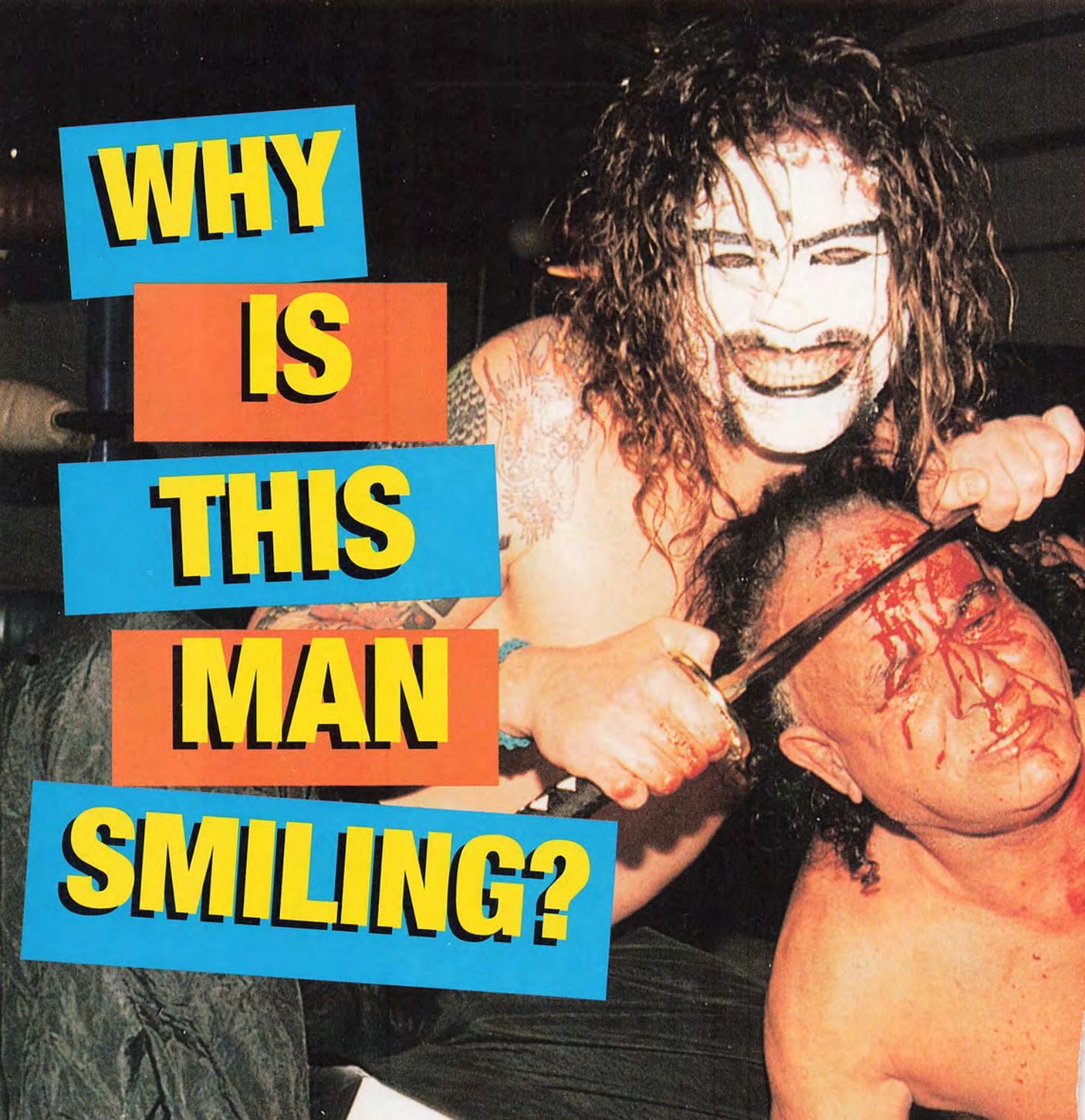
Would I beat The Giant? If I didn't believe that I could beat *any* man, I would be embarrassed to wear the WWF World championship belt.

When I look across the ring, I don't see the size of a man. I don't care whether he's 6-feet, 7-feet, or 8-feet. Wrestling is not about size; it's about preparation. When most people think of preparation, they immediately think of learning how to apply holds and execute maneuvers, about gym work, lifting weights, sparring. That's all important, but to really be special in this sport—maybe any sport or any aspect of life, for that matter—you have to be prepared to react instantly to situations as they arise.

It's one thing to be able to apply a leglock or to even know a counter to that leglock. What are you going to do if you've been trained to break a hold in a particular way, using a particular muscle, and that muscle has either been exhausted or injured? Do you have a plan B or a plan C? Are you smart enough, collected enough, intuitive enough to develop a new plan right then and there?

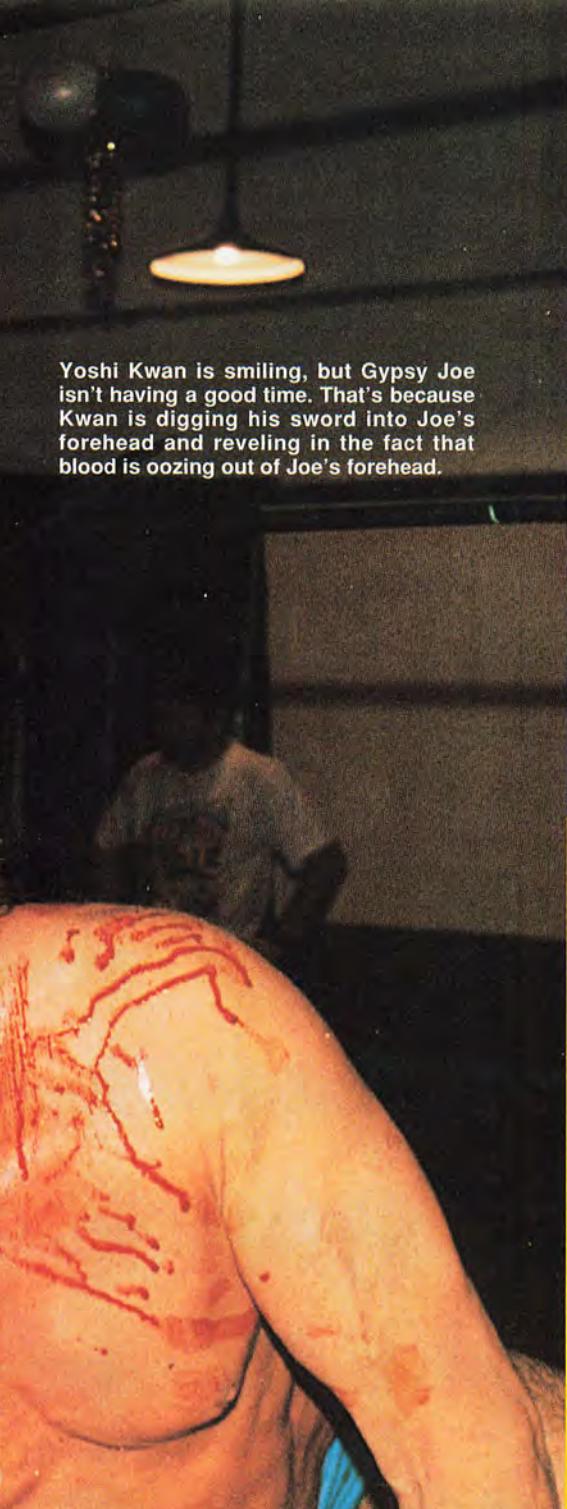
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**WHY
IS
THIS
MAN
SMILING?**

**“Because I’m Getting
Mutilate!”**



**Carving up
opponents is all part of
an average day's work
for Yoshi Kwan, who
doesn't care if he never
wins a major title, as
long as he gets to injure
opponents and watch
them suffer**

By Dave Rosenbaum

YO SHI KWAN'S DREAM job is your nightmare. If you've ever watched one of his matches and woken up nights later in a cold sweat, trying to pluck imaginary pieces of barbed wire out of your skin, then Kwan has done his job. If you fear sitting at ringside when blood comes streaming out of a man's forehead, then stay far away from Kwan's matches.

He almost certainly will never win a world championship.

He might never become a major star in a major federation.

But Yoshi Kwan is happy, content. Having a great job and smiling broadly. And why?

"Because I'm getting paid to mutilate!" Kwan said through an interpreter as he picked dried blood out of his fingernails. "I don't think there's a better job in the world than being able to dig a strand of barbed wire into a man's flesh and get away with it!"

Promoters around the world should pay attention to this man. Kwan is exactly the kind of wrestler the people who run the sport don't like: a man who doesn't care about titles or victories, only about physically destroying opponents. He isn't in it for the competition—he's in it for the blood.

"Yoshi Kwan is a madman who should be locked up in an institution somewhere," said Larry Valentine, one of Kwan's victims in Tennessee's All-State Wrestling. "Something oughta be done about him before anybody else gets hurt."

Valentine was already hurt badly when Kwan wrapped sharp, rusty barbed wire around his head, then yanked on it. Blood poured down Valentine's face, and a doctor later had to administer four tetanus shots.

"The first concern under these circumstances is the victim devel-

Paid To
Yoshi Kwan is smiling, but Gypsy Joe isn't having a good time. That's because Kwan is digging his sword into Joe's forehead and reveling in the fact that blood is oozing out of Joe's forehead.

oping lockjaw," said Dr. Matthew Checca, an attending physician at one All-State card. "Clearly, the barbed wire was extremely rusty, and the victim was at tremendous risk. Nobody asked for my opinion, but I think Mr. Kwan is a very dangerous man."

Kwan was told of Dr. Checca's comments.

"Thank you very much," was his snide reply.

Kwan, whose considerable martial arts skills could make him a title contender in any major federation, apparently chooses to wrestle in smaller federations against lesser competition so he can victimize easier prey. He spent a brief time in WCW in 1993, but he has mostly wrestled in All-State Wrestling, the USWA, and Japan since. The money he makes in All-State and the USWA is a fraction of what he could make

in the WWF or WCW, but Kwan doesn't seem to care. Insiders say he isn't financially comfortable, but simply mentally deranged and proud of it.

"Some of the things he's done would get a man arrested if he tried it on the streets," said Cory Williams, a veteran of All-State and the USWA. "The scary thing is, there's no telling what he'll do next. I'd hate to get this guy engaged in a falls-count-anywhere match. Who knows what weapon he'd come up with then."

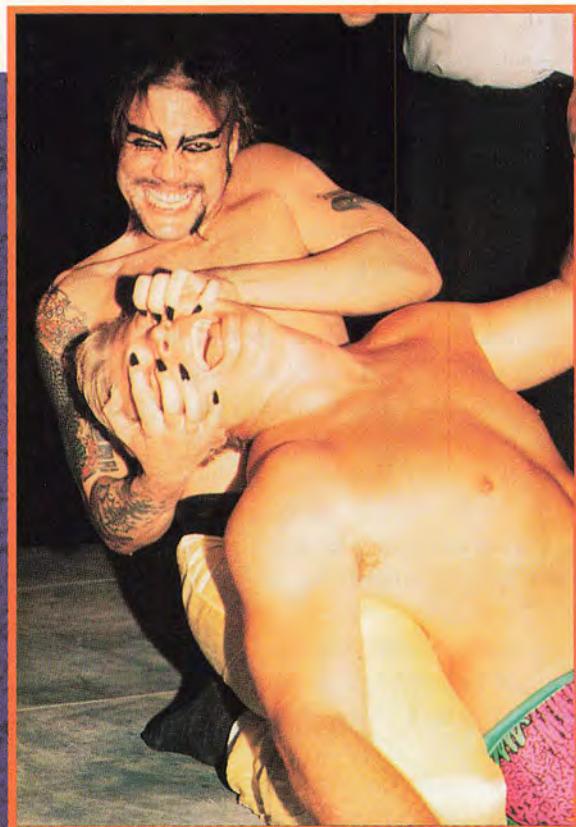
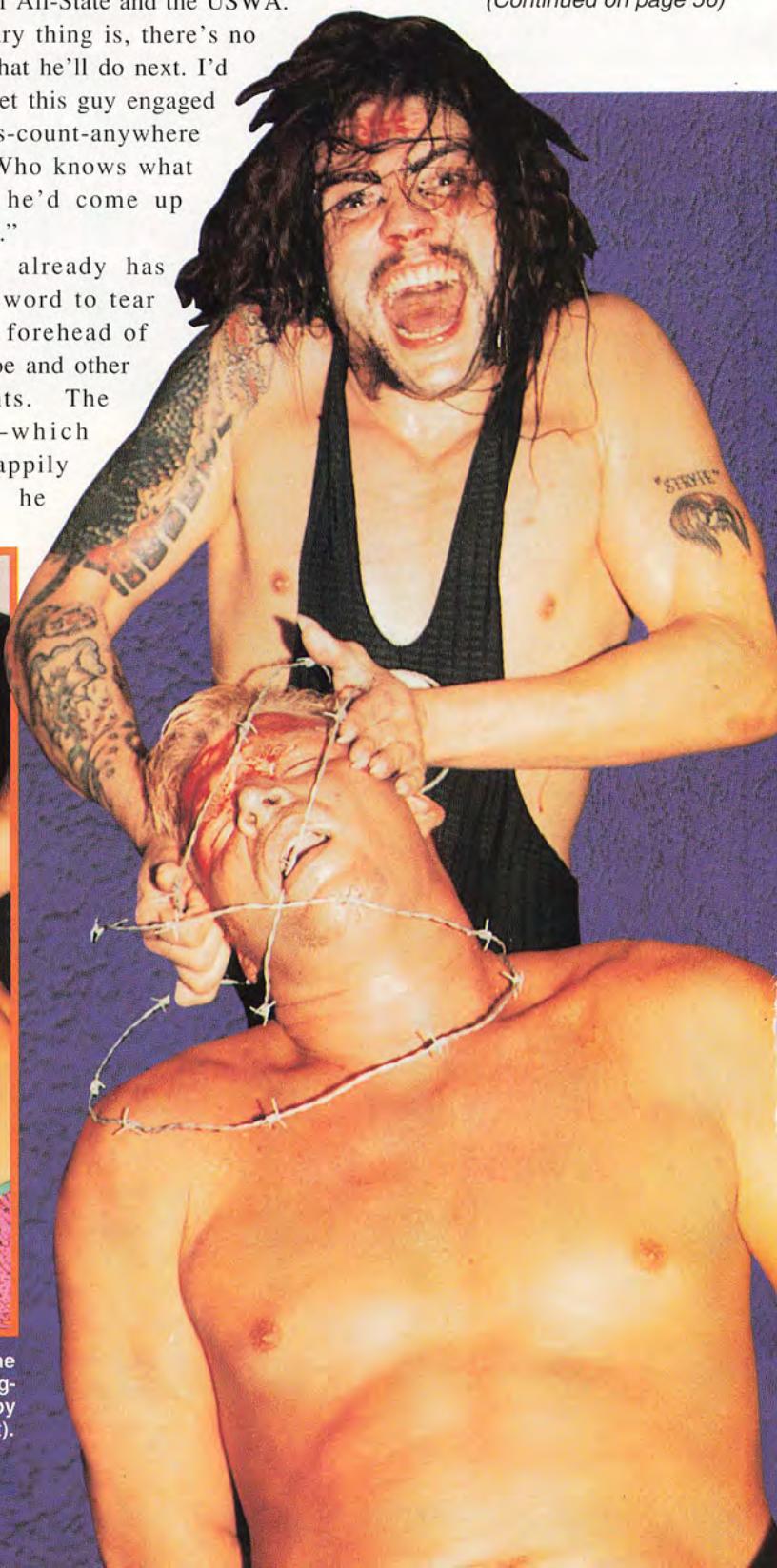
Kwan already has used a sword to tear into the forehead of Gypsy Joe and other opponents. The sword—which Kwan happily reports he

doesn't disinfect between uses—is old but sharp.

"I am very proud of this sword," Kwan said. "It was handed down to me by my grandfather. He told me to use it well. I have."

Unless he was a barbarian, Grandpa Kwan would be horrified by

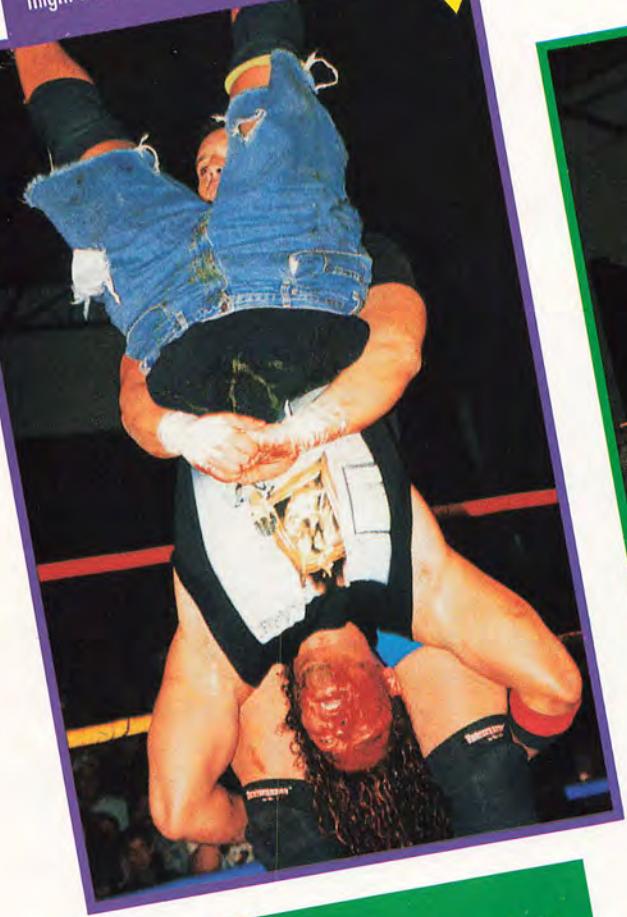
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More violence, more smiles from Kwan. This time, the victim is Larry Valentine. Kwan can torture him by digging his sharp fingernails into his eyes (above), or by wrapping strands of barbed wire around his head (right).

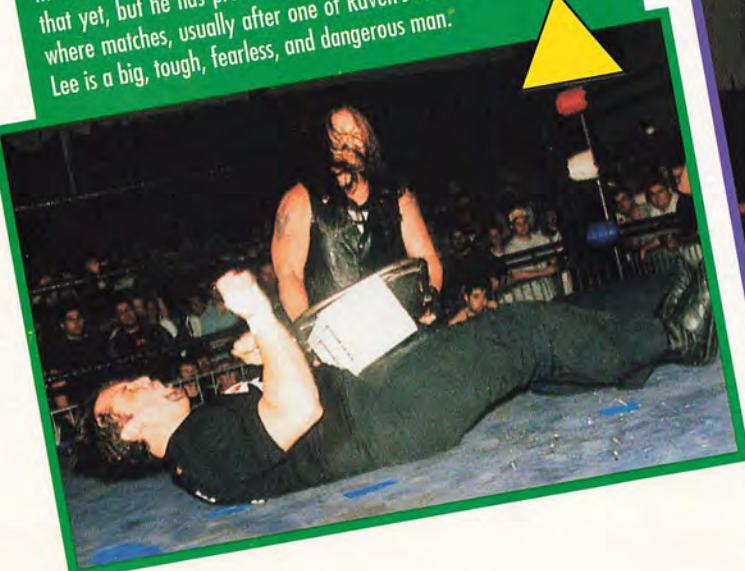
MOST HATED OPPONENT

Raven. More than a year has gone by since they first began waging war against each other in ECW, but both say this feud is only getting started. So much blood has been shed in their matches, and Raven just keeps recruiting more and more people to help him. Forget about Feud of the Year—the hatred these two have for each other might make for Feud of the Decade!



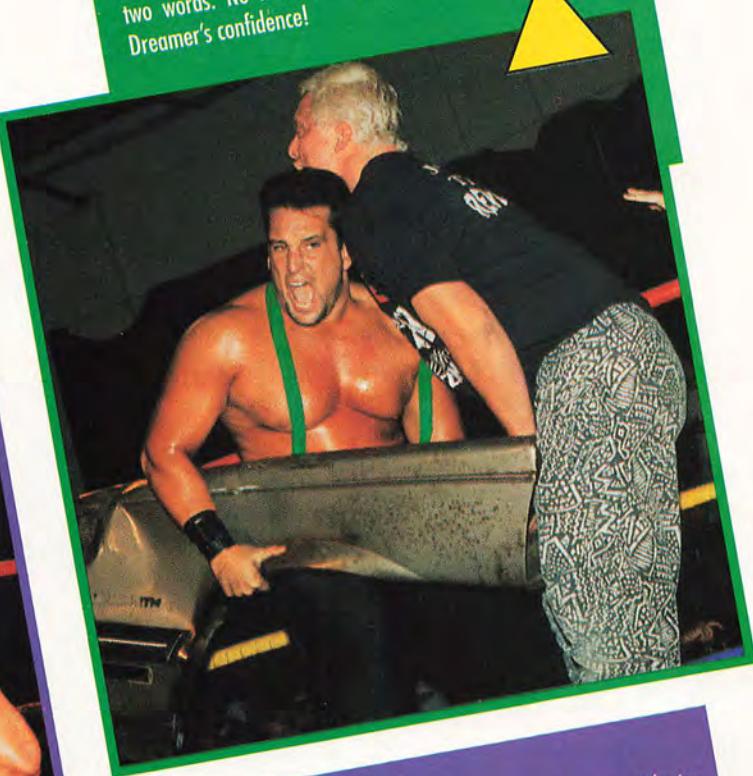
TOUGHEST OPPONENT

Brian Lee. Who would have thought it would be Brian Lee? The former Smoky Mountain champ had been out of wrestling for several months when Raven hired him to take out Dreamer. He hasn't done that yet, but he has prevailed over Tommy in a few falls-count-anywhere matches, usually after one of Raven's other cronies interferes. Lee is a big, tough, fearless, and dangerous man.



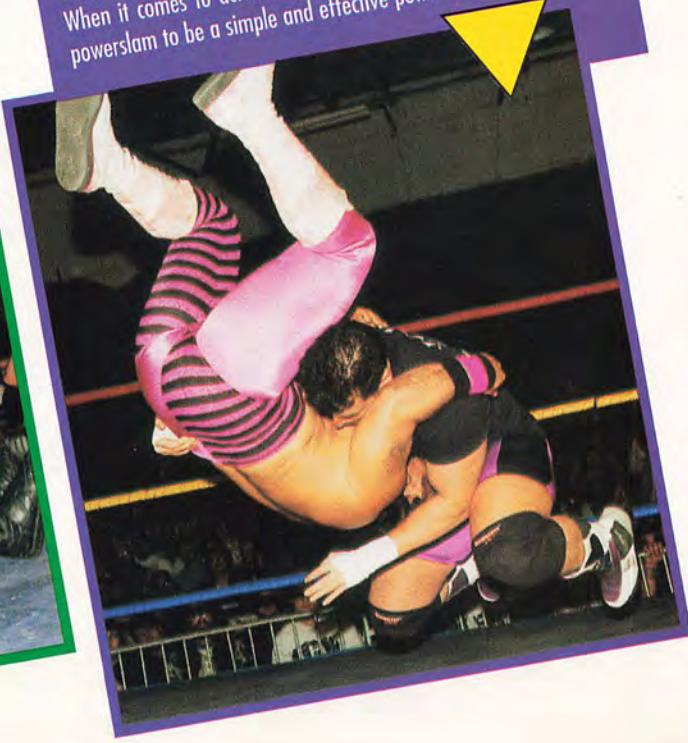
GREATEST MATCH

vs. The Sandman, October 1, 1994. They're uneasy allies now, but that wasn't the case when this match took place. They were bitter rivals in the midst of a series of violent specialty matches. Finally, Dreamer challenged Sandman to an "I Quit" match and actually forced him to utter those two words. No titles were involved, but what a boost to Dreamer's confidence!



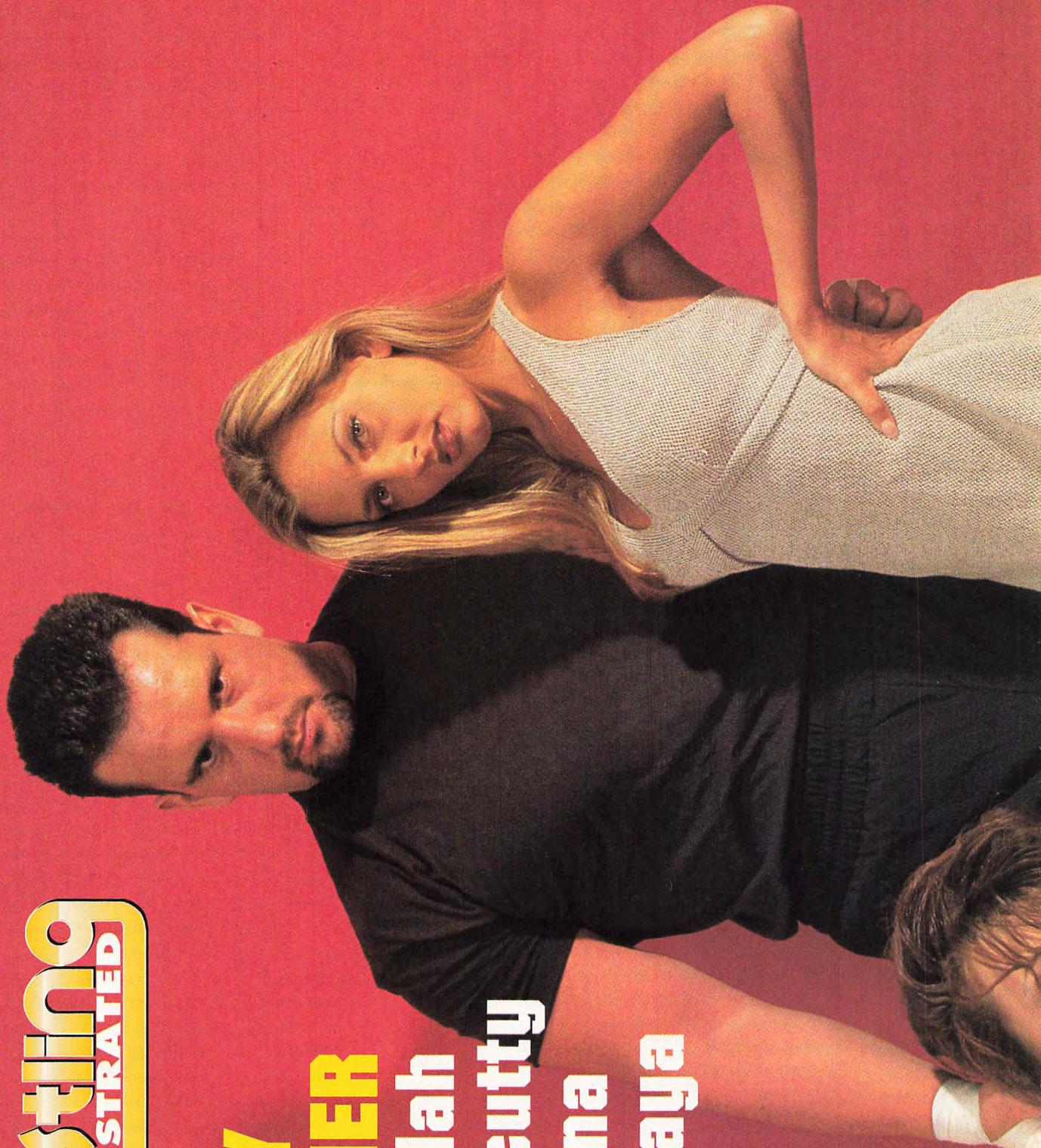
FAVORITE MANEUVER

The powerslam. Dreamer isn't the kind of wrestler who sticks to a specific game plan in each match and relies on a specific finisher. He doesn't mind whacking an opponent with a frying pan or any other available foreign object if that's what it takes to get an edge. When it comes to actual on-the-mat wrestling, he has found the powerslam to be a simple and effective power move.



PROJECT
ILLUSTRATED

**TOMMY
DREAMER**
**With Beulah
McGillicutty
& Kimona
Wana-Laya**





close-up:

TOMMY DREAMER

ONCE CONSIDERED A softy by ECW fans, Tommy Dreamer has turned out to be one of the toughest and most resilient men in wrestling ... The 6'2", 260-pound native of Yonkers, New York, got his first taste of wrestling when he was nine years old ... Dreamer sat down to watch a Rangers-Canadiens hockey game on TV, but the game was snowed out ... Instead, wrestling matches were aired and Dreamer was enthralled by a Bob Backlund vs. Bulldog Brower match ... Was immediately hooked on wrestling and bought his first wrestling magazine, a copy of *Inside Wrestling* ... Saw his first live matches at the White Plains County Center ... Was sitting at ringside when Johnny Rodz fell into his lap during one match ... Years later, attended Johnny Rodz' wrestling school in Brooklyn while attending Iona College in New Rochelle, New York ...

Graduated from Iona with a 3.6 grade point average (he majored in international business) ...

Made his pro debut on October 28, 1989, in Brooklyn against Curly Moe ... Spent the next several years wrestling in independent federations, including IWCCW, where he feuded with Tony Atlas and Kevin Sullivan ... Defeated Atlas for the Century Wrestling Alliance heavyweight title on August 22, 1992, in Wallingford, Connecticut ... Signed with ECW in early-1993 ... On November 13, 1993, in Philadelphia, Tony Stetson and Johnny Hot Body defeated Ian and Axl Rotten for the ECW tag team belts. After the match, they were challenged by Dreamer and Johnny Gunn, who went on to score a pin after only nine seconds to win the title ... Lost to J.T. Smith and The Sandman by disqualification when Terry Funk hit Sandman with a chair ... Douglas substituted for Gunn in a tag team title defense against Taz and Kevin Sullivan on December 4 in Philadelphia. When Douglas turned against Dreamer, Taz pinned him for the title ... That began a long feud between Douglas and Dreamer ... Was pinned by Douglas on December 26, 1993, after Sherri Martel distracted him and Douglas hit him with a chain ... On the same card, won a lights-out battle royal, last eliminating Douglas ... Began feuding with Jimmy Snuka, once one of his idols, when Snuka mistakenly thought Dreamer implied during an interview that the "Superfly" was a washed-up old man ... Pinned Snuka in a grudge match, but later lost to him in a steel cage ... Was one of the few men to kick out of a pin attempt after being hit by a "Superfly" splash ... Was injured and couldn't continue in a match against Douglas for the ECW heavyweight title and thus lost by forfeit ... A feud with The Sandman started when Dreamer came to the rescue of Mikey Whipwreck, who was being caned by Sandman. Dreamer knocked down Sandman, caned him, and kissed Woman, Sandman's manager ... Lost to Sandman in a loser-gets-caned match when Woman hit him with the cane. After the match, Sandman caned Dreamer several times. Dreamer still has the scars on his back ... Got revenge with a series of victories over Sandman ... Battled Sandman in an "I Quit" match on October 1, 1994, in Philadelphia ... Sandman brought a rattan cane to the ring, but Dreamer at one point whacked Sandman in the face with the cane, knocking a cigarette out of Sandman's mouth. Although Sandman suffered a fractured eye socket, the

match continued and, in a brawl involving frying pans and other foreign objects, Sandman finally quit ... Defeated Hack Myers several times ... Teamed with Peaches, Sandman's estranged wife, to defeat Tommy Cairo and Angel in a match in which the winning male was to wrestle The Sandman in a "Singapore caning" match. Cairo and Sandman attacked Dreamer and Cactus Jack, who had come to Dreamer's aid. The match never took place ... Dreamer and Cactus joined forces against Sandman and Cairo, winning several matches ... Went to Japan and teamed with Johnny Smith ... Returned to take on Stevie Richards ... Battled Douglas for the ECW title on March 17, 1995, in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania ... Dreamer seemingly won the belt when he pinned Douglas, but the referee ordered the match continued after discovering Dreamer had used a chain. With

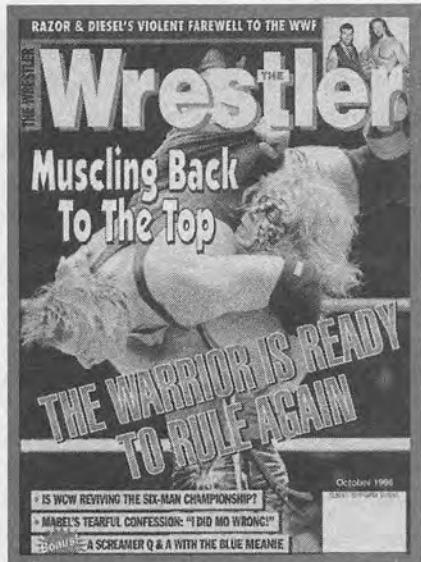
the referee knocked out, Sandman attacked Douglas and put Dreamer on top of him. But before a pinfall was counted, Cactus Jack chased away Sandman. Douglas recovered and pinned Dreamer with his feet on the ropes ... Lost a series of matches to Raven ... Dreamer and Cactus Jack lost to Raven and Richards ... Got so angry at Raven's then-valet, Beulah McGillicutty, that he actually piledriven her several times after she interfered in his matches ... Pinned Vampire Warrior after Warrior attacked him during an interview segment ... Friends begged Dreamer not to get involved with Luna Vachon, who they claimed was using him to get to the top of ECW ... Pinned Dudley Dudley in several matches ... Cactus Jack turned against Dreamer and The Pit Bulls during an August 5 ECW card. Jack DDT'd Dreamer and helped Raven pin him ... Talked about forming a tag team with Gunn in

Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling, but a stumbling block developed when Dreamer insisted on hiring Vachon as their manager and possible partner in six-person matches ... Lost several TV title matches to 2 Cold Scorpio ... Was involved in a frightening and nearly tragic incident on October 28, 1995, at ECW Arena ... At the end of the match between Dreamer and Cactus Jack, Jack tossed a burning chair, which had a gasoline-soaked towel wrapped around it, toward the ropes. The towel flew off the chair and landed on the back of Terry Funk, Dreamer's second for the match. Funk had to be taken to a hospital to be treated for second- and third-degree burns ... Battled Cactus Jack in a match with an unusual stipulation: The first man to use a closed fist would be disqualified. Dreamer was disqualified, and the two men continued brawling after the bell ... Teamed with Funk to beat Raven and Jack at ECW's "November To Remember" card ... Teamed with Vachon and lost to Raven and Richards, then called Vachon "the toughest partner I've ever had" ... Teamed with Douglas to beat Raven and Richards ... Beulah eventually joined his side, as did her replacement in Raven's camp, Kimona Wana-Laya ... Teamed with Douglas and Sandman against Raven and The Bruise Brothers ... Sided with The Pit Bulls and lost to The Headhunters and Brian Lee in a violent extreme death match ... Dreamer continues to battle Raven and Lee in long-running feuds. Judging by the ECW norm, Dreamer has a long road ahead, but with the fans of ECW solidly behind him, he expects to do well. □



.....this month in...

Wrestler

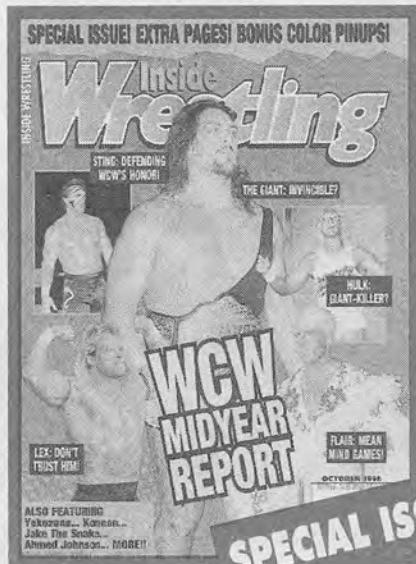


Were you one of the many who didn't think **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR'S** comeback would be successful? If you were, you might want to think again. He's muscling his way back to the top. Now when will he get his shot at **SHAWN MICHAELS**? ... Believe it or not, there is talk in WCW of reviving the six-man championship. If it happens, it's good news to **RICK** and **SCOTT STEINER** and **THE ROAD WARRIORS** ... **RAZOR RAMON** and **DIESEL** may have left the WWF for WCW, but **HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY** and **SHAWN MICHAELS** made sure their farewell to the WWF was a violent one!

All this—and much more!—
in the October 1996 issue of
The Wrestler



Inside Wrestling



How well did your favorite WCW star do in the first six months of this year? We have grades for all of them in our special WCW Midyear Report. It's an offbeat look at the first half of '96 ... Can you believe **YOKOZUNA** shed 33 pounds and now says he's a new man? His new attitude could make a huge difference ... Don't miss the lively debate between **SKIP** and **SUNNY** as they go at it "One On One" ... **THE GIANT** squashes **KONNAN**! What? They've never wrestled! That's true, but it doesn't mean The Giant isn't hurting the WCW U.S. champ's career!

All this—and much more!—
in the October 1996 issue of
Inside Wrestling



WWF VS. WCW

Each month, PRO
WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
will take a close look
at the latest
developments in the
WWF-WCW wars. It's
your chance to get a
better handle on who's
winning perhaps the
most crucial battle in
the sport's history!

CONFUSION REIGNED ON May 27 when The Man Formerly Known As Razor Ramon made a surprise appearance on WCW *Monday Nitro* and began lambasting Eric Bischoff and others in WCW. It was hardly a well-kept secret that both he and Diesel were planning to move on to WCW once their WWF contracts expired in the spring, but when Ramon announced to the crowd that night, "You want a war? You got one!" many wondered if he really was sent to WCW by the WWF.

The answer is no, he most certainly was not, and the people who run the WWF were quick to point that out.

Shortly after Ramon made his much-talked about appearance in WCW, the WWF sent him a letter demanding that he not insinuate that he was working for the WWF while in WCW. Furthermore, it posted a statement on America Online that said basically the same thing regarding Ramon and Diesel. So when Diesel showed up two weeks later, WCW decided it was about time to end the confusion. WCW Senior Vice President Eric Bischoff asked both men point-blank at The Great American Bash if they still worked for the WWF. Both answered no. Then, of course, came the now-infamous attack on Bischoff.

So the gist of what has happened with Ramon and Diesel (who aren't using those names in WCW) is this: They have declared war on WCW, but it is their own personal war, not the WWF's. Maybe they heard all the shots Bischoff has taken at the WWF in the last year and weren't happy about them, but they have officially severed all ties to the WWF and are officially under contract to WCW.

THE RAW-NITRO WAR

If officials at WCW was afraid that the time slot switch necessitated by the NBA playoffs in May would have any carry-over effect, they can breathe a sigh of relief now. With the playoffs behind and its new two-hour format firmly in place, Nitro had a superb June. While WCW has to be pleased with the Nielsen numbers, it also must realize that the extra hour does not assure a ratings victory; Raw actually edged Nitro by a tenth of a point on June 10.

Please note that the ratings and households categories for Nitro are an average of the two hours of programming, between 8 and 9, and between 9 and 10.

Through June, the cumulative Nielsen numbers were as follows: Raw—2.82; Nitro—2.68.

	Date	Rating	Households	Main Event
RAW	6/3	2.3	1.59	Roberts-Helmsley
NITRO	6/3	3.0	2.23	Sting/Luger-Steiners
RAW	6/10	2.7	1.84	Undertaker-Bulldog
NITRO	6/10	2.6	1.71	Sting/Luger-Anderson/Flair
RAW	6/17	2.3	1.59	Goldust-Roberts
NITRO	6/17	3.4	2.28	Giant-S. Steiner
RAW	6/24	2.7	1.84	Undertaker-Austin
NITRO	6/24	3.3	2.17	Giant-Tenta

Still, this should lead to big ratings for WCW TV shows this summer and fall. Everyone is talking about Diesel and Ramon and what they're doing in WCW. There is also a lot of speculation about who will join Ramon and Diesel's side next. Look for Jeff Jarrett, Ted DiBiase, and Men on a Mission to all be in WCW by fall. But don't cry for the WWF just yet. They've added some impressive ex-WCW talent in Brian Pillman and former World champ Ron Simmons.

And the war continues.

We'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to the "Voice Of The Fans" portion of this column over the last few months. You've provided us with some very interesting insights into the WWF-WCW war. Now we're going to ask you to do a little more.

We want to know everything there is to know about your Monday night viewing habits. Which show, *Nitro* or *Raw*, is your favorite? Do you constantly switch back and forth between the two shows when they are on opposite each other? Do you tape one show while watching the other? If so,

which one do you tape? Or do you watch *Raw* as it is aired and catch the second half of *Nitro* when it is replayed later in the evening?

Do your Monday viewing habits follow the same pattern every week, or does which show you watch usually depend on the scheduled matches for that evening? Now that *Nitro* is a two-hour show every week, have your viewing habits changed? Are you more likely to watch *Raw* on the weeks in which it is live? And exactly how did you feel when Eric Bischoff used to give away results of taped *Raw* matches? We have heard from some fans who said they didn't tune into the live broadcast of *Nitro* when he was doing that simply because they didn't want to know the *Raw* results before the matches were aired.

Your answers to these questions will really help us get a better idea of who is coming out on top in the Monday night ratings wars. So please take a few minutes to let us know how you watch wrestling on Monday nights. Please write to us at: Voice of the Fans, PWI, P.O. Box 1168, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. We'll print some of your responses in upcoming installments.

VOICE OF THE FANS

I think the WWF-WCW war is getting out of hand. It has nothing to do with the fans anymore. It's about who has the better athletes, the most money, and who's going to be number one in the ratings at the end of the week. I just want the whole situation to go back to the way it was when neither one acknowledged the other.

JAKE McCOOK
Springer, NM

I am a fan of both the WWF and WCW, but since the "Billionaire Ted" skits ran, I no longer watch the WWF. I think the skits were done in poor taste. I refuse to watch any WWF shows until the WWF cleans up its act. Vince McMahon and the rest of the WWF officials need to grow up!

AMANDA MEEK
Orange Park, FL

I think everyone's criticism of WCW for spending huge amounts of money to lure WWF talent is unfair. Since so many of PWI readers claim to be experts, why do they then deny Vince McMahon's past? No one cared when McMahon did a lot to force the AWA out of business in the 1980s. Nobody commented when McMahon spent tons of money to lure WCW/NWA mainstays Arn Anderson, Tully Blanchard, Ric Flair, The Road Warriors, etc. to his federation in order to try to make

that rival promotion fold.

My advice for other wrestling fans? Quit pointing fingers.
JOE RIGGIO
Huntington, WV

I have been an avid fan of both promotions since the mid-1980s, but now I'm not so sure if I still am. I'm getting very upset with these two bickering. Instead of wasting money and time stating how bad the other promotion is, each should be concentrating on making its promotion even better. All I want is good, cool wrestling. I couldn't care less about what is going on in another promotion.

BRYAN FERRARA
West Islip, NY

What WCW is trying to do is become what the WWF was in the 1980s. The WWF might not have the "big boys" now, but the young talent it has will take over that title in due time when those laughable has-beens in WCW enter a retirement home.

KOBINA ANING JR.
Brooklyn, NY

If WCW commentators insist on constantly talking about how the WWF has second-rate talent, then why is WCW buying all of the WWF's talent? It's like the WWF stinks until WCW wants to buy another wrestler.

EDWARD KNOWLES
El Dorado, KS

They Said It!

WWF head Vince McMahon, on the lawsuit against WCW claiming trademark infringement and unfair competition for allegedly trying to dupe the public into thinking Kevin (Diesel) Nash and Scott (Razor Ramon) Hall are representatives of the WWF: "I felt I have finally been pushed up against the wall with no other options to protect my company."



SORRY, WE'RE OUT OF NAMES. The other day, I walked into a Herman's sporting goods store three months after a clearance sale began. Everything was 90 percent off, said the signs on the windows. Unfortunately, the only things available were pink men's rowing shoes in size 16 1/2.

All the good stuff was taken. There

were a few old Houston Astros hats in size 3 1/2 (for your information, a peanut wears size 4) and a wooden tennis racket here and there. Not willing to walk out empty-handed, I kept searching, but I found nothing I could use.

About now you're probably thinking, *What the heck is Rosenbaum talking about?* What in the world does any

of this have to do with wrestling? Why did they give him valuable column space in *PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED*?

Hey, be patient. I'm a busy man. I just got through explaining Steve McMichael's decision to join The Four Horsemen to my cocker spaniel. He didn't understand, and neither do I.

Anyway, the point is that if McMichael was to go looking for a wrestling name to replace his real name, he might find that the inventory of available names is about as bare as that Herman's store.

See? There was a point!

Sid Vicious. Now there's a real wrestling name. Same for Sid Justice or even "Psycho" Sid for that matter. The Ultimate Warrior. Sting. Hulk Hogan—perhaps the greatest wrestling name of all-time. Strangler Lewis. Killer Kowalski. Great names. Inventive names. Names with some real attitude.

But if you were to page through an issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* or look at "Arena Reports" on page 48, you'd be struck by all of the ridiculous names out there.

Chef D.Z. Gillespie. A Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling mainstay. He has actually taken part in some cheeseburger-eating contests with other wrestlers in PCW. And Bill Apter tells me he makes a darn good chocolate-chip cookie. But wrestler Gillespie should know that the other Gillespie (Dizzy) is one of the greatest jazz musicians of all-time, not a chef.

Major Breakinridge. Is that supposed to be some weird takeoff on *Myra Breckinridge*, the movie starring Raquel Welch? Was Major Breakinridge a character in *Myra Breckinridge*, and what does it have to do with wrestling? No one seems to know.

The Cremator. Not bad,



No, that's not The Undertaker choking Dan Cooley. It's a very cheap imitation called The Grave Digger. If he wants to make it big in wrestling someday, he ought to find an original persona.

although it reminds me of a food processor. The Grave Digger. Pretty inventive if there weren't already a pretty talented wrestler by the name of The Undertaker in the WWF. Double Delight, a tag team in Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling, has named itself after an ice cream cone.

The Prince of Polyester. The Prince of Polyester should meet Disco Inferno. Prince, who wrestles in ASWA in Ohio, would be very popular in South Florida. He could be the entertainment at early bird specials.

Max Profit sounds like he's trying to get Ted DiBiase's attention. So far he hasn't.

Now the names are about to get really scary. We're about to delve into the really independent independents.

Hillbilly Festus is a editor's nightmare, because what if you mistakenly drop an "s"? Then he's Hillbilly Fetus and the abortion people are up in arms.

Kenny and Keith Arden are not Elizabeth's sons.

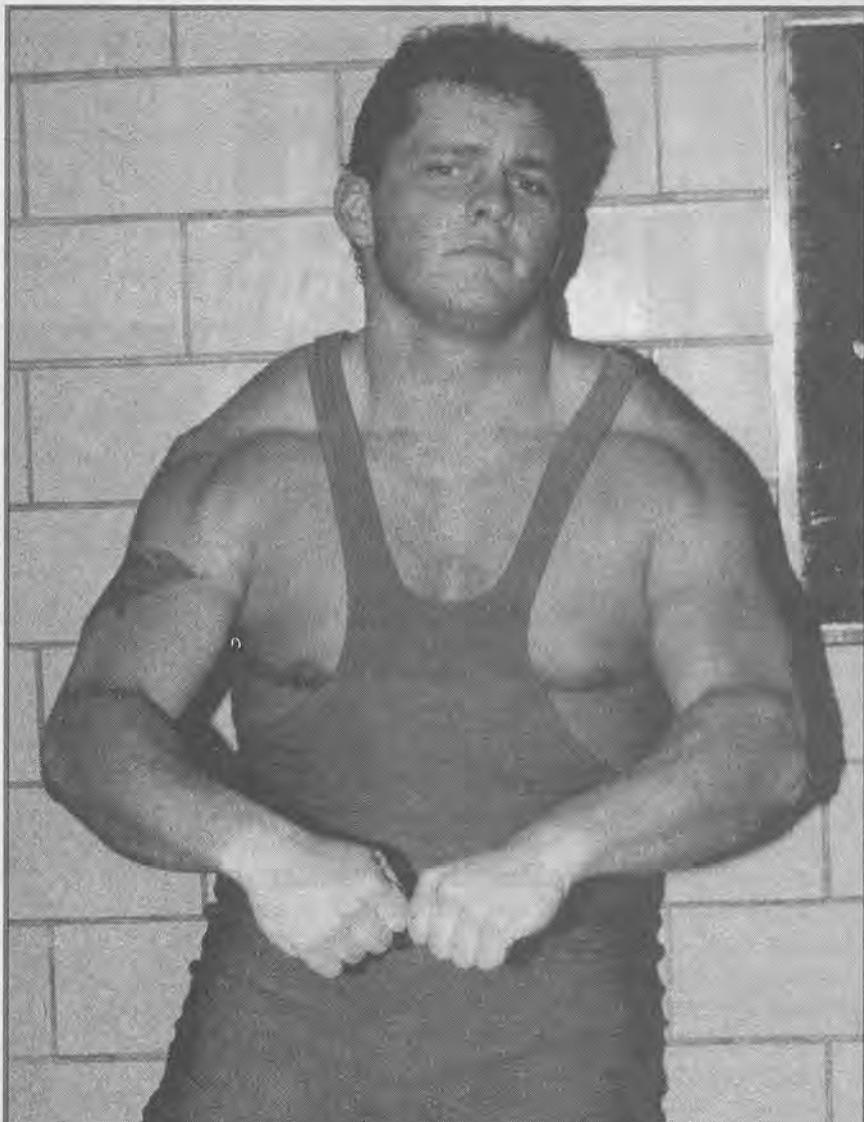
Nasty Critter doesn't scare me. Critters don't scare anyone. Critters are cute, not nasty. Chipmunks are critters. Why doesn't he just call himself The Chipmunk? Beasts scare people. Animals. Warriors.

Sons of the Gestapo is a distasteful name that inspires nothing but contempt.

Woody Woodchuck is just begging to be called Woody Woodpecker. That scares a lot of people.

Strictly Business is not a bad name for a tag team that plans to go somewhere.

My least favorite nickname belongs to Lou Marconi. No, there's nothing wrong with the name Lou Marconi, until you call him "Beef Stew" Lou Marconi. For one, "Spaghetti" Lou Marconi sounds more fitting. And what's with the beef stew thing? Why would a human being want to compare himself to stew? No matter what he does, Lou Marconi is always going to be perceived as a big, fat, slow moving hunk of meat.



Lou Marconi is a cool name for a wrestler, as long as "Beef Stew" isn't preceding it. What does meat cooked with vegetables in a broth of its own juices have to do with wrestling, anyway?

Bo Dacious might be the most ridiculous name of all. I'm sure he has a girlfriend named Beutah Full.

Chip Endale? Clever, but also kinda dumb.

The point here is that names are getting out of hand. Wrestlers are showing no respect for themselves or the sport when they take on these ridiculous names. Unless you count Giant Baba or Dusty Rhodes, there has never been a WCW or WWF world champion with a ridiculous name. They either keep their real names or come up with an appropriate, tasteful substitute.

I'm going to guarantee right here that Chef D.Z. Gillespie and Bo

Dacious will never win a major title in a major federation. Don't believe me? Look what happened to Owen Hart when he started calling himself The Blue Blazer. Right down the tubes. Ditto for Terry Taylor when he went by the name The Red Rooster. Hey, how's Mike Rotundo doing as V.K. Wall Street? And what about Brutus Beefcake now that he's The Booty Man? Not too good, right?

If Michael Jordan changed his name to Michael Michael Motorcycle, he'd be lucky to score three points a game.

See, this is all about self-respect.

And I'm your columnist, "Dangerous" Dave Rosenbaum. □

win or lose draw

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

AFUNNY THING happened to Taz on his way to being taken seriously as a wrestler. He met Bill Alfonso.

Not only did he meet Alfonso, he decided to take him on as his manager. So now we see Taz, a committed student of the science of the sport, being led to the ring by a man whose chief interests in life seem to be blowing a whistle and generally acting obnoxious. Another wrestling odd couple.

"Yeah, everyone seems to think it's real funny," Taz admitted. "I don't!"

Funny, yes, because Alfonso took an opposite direction than Taz. Once one of the most respected referees in the game, Alfonso came to ECW and started picking fights with Commissioner Tod Gordon over the lack of rules enforcement in the federation. Then he quit officiating altogether and dedicated himself to spreading mayhem in a federation that already has way too much of it.

"If you have a problem with what Bill Alfonso is doing," Alfonso barked, "then you never understood me in the first place!"

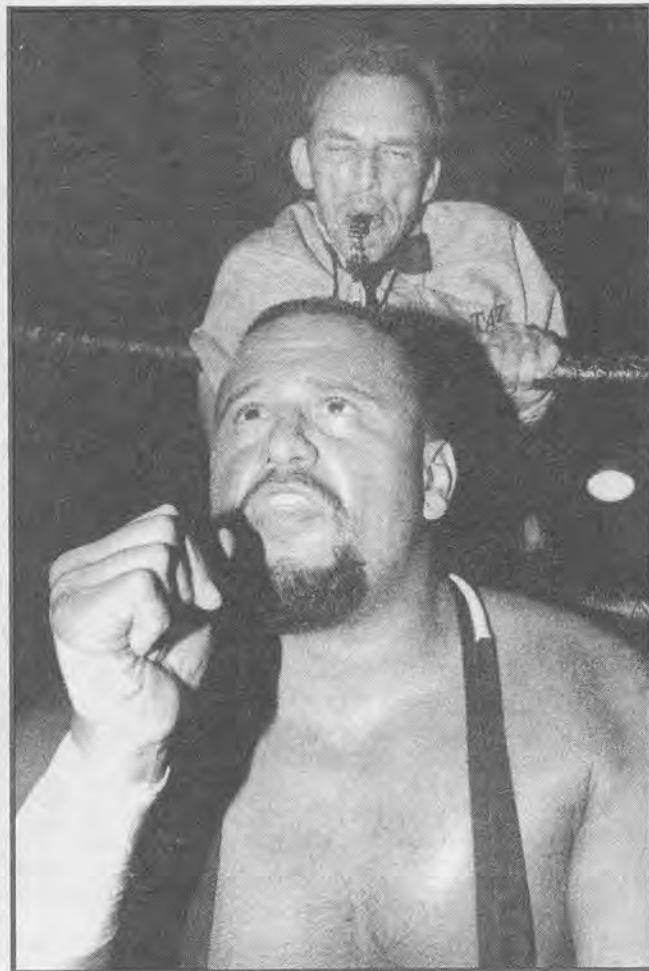
Who can understand a guy like Alfonso? Taz? Probably not, but there they are a team. They're a solid unit doing very well in a great federation.

"I'm tired of taking flak about Bill Alfonso," said Taz. "He knows what he's doing. He's as smart as any manager I've ever met, and I've seen what a lot of these managers can do."

Alfonso should know enough about wrestling; as a ref, he watched up-close some of the sport's finest go at it. But Taz knows a lot about wrestling, too. Scientifically, he's brilliant, a master of the suplex. He knows enough to be an instructor at ECW's new

training center, House of Hardcore. His skills far outweigh Alfonso's shown strategical acumen.

"I think Taz likes having Alfonso around as a counterbalance," said Perry Saturn of The Eliminators, also an instructor at the school. "While Taz tries to keep his cool, Alfonso goes off on a tangent. The crazier Alfonso gets, the more Taz reminds himself to stay calm. He's also a good distraction to Taz' opponents."



Wherever Taz goes in ECW these days, Bill Alfonso is not far behind. They're an odd and effective combination. Some say the very cool and serious Taz likes Alfonso specifically because he is so out of control and obnoxious.

Taz himself will admit that, though he is trying hard to distance himself from the days when he, not Alfonso, was considered the maniac that everybody tried to avoid. He is not so calm that he can't survive in ECW, but neither is he the raving lunatic who caused many to wonder whether he had any long-term future in wrestling. He is, in my opinion, the most technically sound wrestler in ECW, and he wants people to know that.

"That's why I like this UFC [Ultimate Fighting Championship] style of wrestling I've gotten into recently," he said. "It gives me a chance to show off

(Continued on page 46)

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win, lose, or draw

(Continued from page 44)

my talents as a wrestler. ECW is tough, but those guys in UFC are pretty tough, too. They're masters at what they do."

Alfonso, on the other hand, doesn't care much about pure wrestling. There are even rumors that the manager would prefer that Taz adopt a less scientific, more aggressive style. Apparently, he wants Taz to be what Alfonso would be if he were a wrestler.

"He'd like to see Taz slug it out more," said Axl Rotten. "He thinks that really is the only way to be successful in ECW. He enjoys a perfectly placed punch or kick more than he enjoys a perfectly executed suplex." It doesn't appear that Taz is listening. Which makes one wonder why Alfonso just doesn't go out and get himself some wrestlers who will follow his instructions. After all, there are a lot of guys who could use guidance and who don't mind being led around by the nose. He could find a few right there in ECW.

The reason Alfonso doesn't do that is because in Taz, he knows he has a winner.

"Taz is a terrific talent," he gushed. "Any manager would love to have somebody like Taz in his stable. Bill Alfonso is not stupid! Bill Alfonso knows a winner when he sees one!"

No, Alfonso is not stupid, but he could be expendable. Taz probably isn't going to spend his entire career in ECW. If he someday makes a move to the WWF or WCW, it's hard for me to believe he'd do it with Alfonso as his manager.

"Taz is smart enough to chart his own course," Gordon said. "Why he keeps Alfonso around I'll never know. In time, Taz will realize Alfonso is nothing but a drag on his career. When the day comes, we'll all see what a fraud Alfonso really is."

Strong words, and ones that



Taz drives Axl Rotten into the mat with a suplex. Though Alfonso is a smart man, it's hard to believe he has taught Taz much about technical wrestling. He was strong in that area long before he met Alfonso.

some knowledgeable folks don't agree with. They argue that Alfonso, whatever his shortcomings, deserves serious consideration.

"Look, so far Taz has stuck with this guy," Tommy Dreamer said. "So that tells you that he must at least be listening to him. Personally, I wouldn't have Alfonso as my manager. He's just not my style. But he's been effective in his own way."

The problem is, Alfonso doesn't demand to be taken seriously as a manager. He seems more interested in advancing his own interests and drawing attention to himself.

Taz doesn't need Alfonso, but Alfonso sure does need Taz. Without him, Alfonso is just a strange man with a whistle. □

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Vega beat Mike Khouri ... Ahmed Johnson defeated Davey Boy Smith by disqualification ... The Ultimate Warrior beat Owen Hart ... Big Van Vader defeated Yokozuna ... World tag team champs Skip & Zip beat Henry & Phineas Godwinn ... Hunter Hearst Helmsley beat Razor Ramon ... World champ Shawn Michaels beat Diesel in a steel cage match. (05-17-96)

—Ray Ney

MICHIGAN

WARREN—Motor City Wrestling at the YMCA: Skull Ganz beat Mike Legacy by disqualification ... Rock Stevens beat Rob Avram ... Killer Kanareck beat Bob Clancy ... Mike Kelly wrestled Death Dealer to a no-contest ... Otis Apollo beat Knighthawk by disqualification ... Tommy Starr beat Bobby Lee ... Woody & Bobby Lee beat tag team champions Scotty Summers & Johnny Paradise to win the title. (05-18-96)

—Kurt Schneider

MINNESOTA

MANKATO—Northern Premier Wrestling at the Kato Ballroom: Horace the Psychopath won a Shanghai streetfight battle royal ... Heavyweight champion Lenny Lane defeated Billy Blayne ... J.B. Trask defeated Kenny Jay by countout ... Mr. Dynamic defeated Horace the Psychopath. (06-02-96)

—Scott Hoover

MISSOURI

POPLAR BLUFF—North American All-Star Wrestling at the American Legion Hall: Reggie Montgomery beat Bonecrusher I ... Man Mountain Mike beat Bonecrusher II ... Chris Graham beat Ron McClarity ... Giant Warrior defeated Ricky Burton in a loser-leaves-town match ... The Colorado Kid beat heavyweight champ Justin St. John (with Paul Adams) in a no-title match. (06-09-96)

—Timothy A. Walker

WEST PLAINS—NAASW at the Fairgrounds: Reggie Montgomery beat Bonecrusher II by disqualification ... Ron McClarity & Mimi Kennedy beat Charlie Parker & Big Mamie Cyrus in a mixed tag team match ... Giant Warrior & Reggie Montgomery beat The Bonecrushers ... Heavyweight champion The Colorado Kid beat Justin St. John ... The Colorado Kid, Ron McClarity, & Giant Warrior beat Justin St. John, Bonecrusher II, & Charlie Parker. (06-04-96)

—Timothy A. Walker

ST. LOUIS—Mid-Missouri Wrestling Alliance at the South Broadway Athletic Club: Ty Dalton beat The Hustler & The Red Devil in a handicap match ... Mr. Bibbs pinned Bob ... Regin' Cajun defeated Pete Madden ... The Drill Instructor defeated Frankie D ... The Rock 'n' Roll Kid defeated The Gambler ... Johnny Jett beat Tom Sullivan ... Junior heavyweight champion Keith Smith beat MMWA champ Danny Boy Hawkins to win the title. (05-18-96)

—Rich Settler

NEW JERSEY

YARDVILLE—NWA at Imaginations: Ralph Soto pinned Gino Caruso ... Ace Darling & Inferno Kid beat PG-13 ... Boogie Woogie Brown pinned Rick Ratchet ... Twigg Ramirez beat Mike Vendetta ... Ghetto Blaster pinned Rocco Dorsey ... Tommy Fiero beat Dennis Coraluzzo in a boxing match ... U.S. tag team champs Bad Attitude beat Sons of the Gestapo ... King Kong Bundy pinned Johnny Gunn ... North American champ Tommy Cairo beat Ian Rotten and Derek Domino in a triangle match. (06-08-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWF at Madison Square Garden: The

Bushwhackers beat Marty Jannetty & Leif Cassidy ... Savio Vega pinned Bob Backlund ... Ahmed Johnson beat Davey Boy Smith by disqualification ... Steve Austin pinned Jake Roberts ... Big Van Vader pinned Yokozuna ... The Ultimate Warrior pinned Owen Hart ... Henry & Phineas Godwinn defeated World tag team champions Skip & Zip (with Sunny) to win the title ... Hunter Hearst Helmsley pinned Razor Ramon ... World champion Shawn Michaels defeated Diesel in a steel cage match. (05-19-96)

—Anthony Yoder

NEVADA

LAS VEGAS—National Wrestling Conference at the Silver Nugget Casino: Bobby Bradley beat Lil' Haystacks ... Tama Toa beat The Navajo Kid ... Damien & D-Dog beat Super Boy & Prince Hindu ... Larry Powers beat Zuma by disqualification ... Virgil beat The Honky Tonk Man ... Heavyweight champion Sabu beat Kama by disqualification. (05-17-96)

—Kyle Bell & Harry Simon

NORTH CAROLINA

MARION—Great American Wrestling Federation at the Rec Center: Carolina Heartbreaker beat Southern Rebel ... Medic Madness beat Stan Brown & Grunge Master ... Terminator Rex defeated Ricky Rocket ... Jason Graham defeated Star Ryder ... U.S. champ Mike Murphy beat TV champion Boris Dragoff ... The Dream Team wrestled The Georgia Express to a double-countout. (06-08-96)

—Greg Mosorjak

WILMINGTON—ICW at the ICW Training Center: Brad Smith beat Bounty Hunter ... Tommy Idol defeated The Russian Diplomat ... Spoiler II defeated Rock Soldier ... The Street Warriors defeated The Blade Runners ... ICW champ Marc Ash defeated Agent Steel ... Agent Steel won a battle royal. (06-07-96)

—Marcus Watkins

MARSHALL—NWF at the Elementary School Gym: Alan Marshall defeated The Iranian Assassin ... Bonomo Joe defeated Dan Cooley ... John Owens beat J.D. Sullivan by disqualification ... The Executioner beat NWF champ The Lawman to win the title ... Jimmy Valiant defeated Major DeBeers ... Jimmy Valiant beat Count Grog in a special challenge match. (06-01-96)

—Greg Mosorjak

MOORESVILLE—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: Junior heavyweight champion Flaming Youth defeated Russian Assassin II ... Baby Huey beat The Equalizer ... Austin Steele beat The Black Angel ... Terry Austin & George South wrestled The PWF Juicer & Sweet Brown Sugar to a double-disqualification ... Italian Stallion defeated Terry Austin in a falls-count-anywhere match when he pinned him on top of an Army tank outside the building. (06-01-96)

—Brock Chandler

GREENSBORO—ACW at the Greenview Recreation Center: An eight-man match between Manny Fernandez, Brian Bruise, Jammin' Jerry, & Rockin' Robbie and L.A. Wild One, Hot Stuff, & The Terminators ended in a double-pin and was ruled a draw ... Ricky Morton & David Jericho beat Jackie Fulton & Rick Savage ... Pat Friday won a battle royal to win the vacant TV title ... ACW champ Rick Link defeated Bo James ... Manager Ripley Von Slam beat midget wrestler Bad Boy Buck with help from Tim Blaze and Brian Bruise ... Mr. Excellent beat The Lumbee Warrior. (06-01-96)

—Jason Merrick

MOUNT AIRY—AIWF at the Armory: Major Havoc defeated The Phantom in a "War Zone" tournament



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match ... Dynamite Doug beat Major Breakinridge ... Lightweight champ Jammer beat King Cobra ... U.S. champ Jumpin' Jimmy defeated Chris Windham ... Sebastian Kane beat Major Havoc in a falls-count-anywhere match ... Superstar beat AIWF champ Johnny Reb to win the title ... Jackie Anderson & Chris Windham (substituting for the injured Jamie Anderson) beat tag team champs Rick Deezel & Danzig in a double-bullrope match, but since Windham wasn't named Anderson's partner in the contract for the match, the title did not change hands. (05-18-96)

—Dean Puckett

JEFFERSON—Southern States Wrestling at the Central High School: Scotty McKeever beat David Lynch ... Danny & Bam Bam Christian beat The Equalizer & Bubba ... Tag team champions Death & Destruction beat Steve Flynn & Alex Shane ... Appalachian champion Beau James pinned Scott Sterling ... Patriot pinned Vladimir Koloff ... Ricky Morton beat Gorgeous George III. (05-18-96)

—Fay Ferguson

FOREST CITY—PWF at the Armory: Baby Huey beat Russian Assassin II ... The PWF Juicer beat Rick Savage ... The Equalizer defeated Billy the Kid ... Heavyweight champ Carolina Dreamer beat Terry Austin ... Italian Stallion beat George South ... Italian Stallion beat Austin Steele. (05-18-96)

—Brock Chandler

OHIO

ALLIANCE—ASWA TV taping at the Franklin Community Center: Jimmie Lee pinned The Prince of Polyester ... Isha Dekimasu beat Erik Starr ... Bo Dacious beat Chip Endale ... Lou Marconi pinned Lumberjack' Jack ... Tag team champs Max Profit & The Prince of Polyester wrestled to a double-disqualification with Kid Collins & Thunder Morgan ... Light heavyweight champ Kid Collins pinned Jimmie Lee ... Frank Stalatto beat heavyweight champ Thunder Morgan by disqualification ... Max Profit won an 11-man elimination match. (06-08-96)

—Jeff Gorman

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA—Tri-County Wrestling at the Northern Liberties Rec Center: Onyx Dahmer pinned Rage ... Urban Soul beat Phantasm ... The Hell Rider & Winter Steel beat Dan Slade & Jaguar in a mixed tag team match ... Battlestar beat New Jack by disqualification ... Derek Domino beat Raphael Barrio ... Don Montoya pinned Doc Havoc ... Tony Rodman beat Steve Corino ... PG-13 defeated The Lost Boys. (06-09-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

PHILADELPHIA—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the ECW Arena: Devon Storm beat El Puerto Rican ... Rob Van Dam beat Mikey Whipwreck ... Taz beat Jason Helton ... The Pit Bulls & Tommy Dreamer beat The Bruise Brothers & Brian Lee in an elimination match ... ECW champ Raven beat Pit Bull II ... TV champ Shane Douglas beat El Puerto Rican ... Douglas beat Donn E. Allen ... Douglas beat Devon Storm ... Douglas beat Mikey Whipwreck ... Pit Bull II beat Douglas to win the TV title ... Tag team champions The Eliminators beat The Gangstas. (06-01-96)

—Carly Wyse

PHILADELPHIA—WWF at the CoreStates Spectrum (afternoon card): The Bushwhackers defeated Marty Jannetty & Leif Cassidy ... Justin Bradshaw pinned Bob Holly ... Savio Vega beat Marty Jannetty ... Ahmed Johnson beat Davey Boy Smith by disqualification ... Steve Austin beat Jake Roberts ... The Ultimate Warrior pinned Owen Hart ... Big Van Vader beat Yokozuna ... World tag team champs Skip & Zip

beat Henry & Phineas Godwinn ... Hunter Hearst Helmsley pinned Razor Ramon ... World champion Shawn Michaels beat Diesel in a steel cage match. (05-18-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

PLYMOUTH MEETING—ECW at Lu Lu Temple: 2 Cold Scorpio won a battle royal ... Mikey Whipwreck defeated Stevie Richards ... Ron Harris beat Don Harris ... New Jack beat Brian Lee ... D-Von Dudley beat Bubba Ray Dudley ... Pit Bull II defeated Perry Saturn ... TV champ Shane Douglas beat John Kronus ... ECW champ Raven beat 2 Cold Scorpio. (05-31-96)

—Lynne Fontana

NORTHAMPTON—Trans World Wrestling Federation at the Northampton Community Center: The Lumberjack beat Big Cotton ... Virgil beat The Mad Russian ... Ladies champion Kattra pinned Luna Vachon ... Steve Smyth beat Dan Steel ... Savio Vega pinned The Vampire Warrior ... King Kong Bundy beat Typhoon ... Bam Bam Bigelow defeated Owen Hart by disqualification. (05-24-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

ALLENTOWN—ECW at Ag Hall: Rob Van Dam beat El Puerto Rican ... Brian Lee beat Axl Rotten ... The Bruise Brothers defeated The Pit Bulls ... Heavyweight champion Raven defeated Chris Jericho ... Big Titan, J.T. Smith, & Little Guido beat Bubba Ray Dudley, D-Von Dudley, & Hack Myers ... Taz beat 2 Cold Scorpio ... Sabu defeated Mikey Whipwreck ... TV champ Shane Douglas won a triangle match against Tommy Dreamer & 2 Cold Scorpio ... Tag team champs The Eliminators beat The Gangstas. (05-18-96)

—Gina Makoul

RED LION—AWF at the Fairmont Hall Arena: Quinn Nash beat Adam Flash ... James Keiser beat George Love ... The Deadly Dutchman beat The Wolfman ... Johnny Gunn beat Johnny Taylor ... Jonathan Luvstruck pinned Steve Corino ... Doink beat Kato ... Johnny Gunn won a battle royal to earn a shot at North American champ Flex Wheeler ... Hillbilly Tiny beat Otto Shark ... Johnny Gunn beat North American champ Flex Wheeler to win the title. (05-18-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

GLENOLDEN—ECW at the Briarcliffe Fieldhouse: Rob Van Dam pinned El Puerto Rican ... Big Titan beat Hack Myers ... Taz beat Axl Rotten by submission ... Pit Bull II defeated Bubba Ray Dudley ... Heavyweight champion Raven pinned Mikey Whipwreck ... John Kronus beat Mustafa Saed ... New Jack pinned Perry Saturn ... 2 Cold Scorpio beat Chris Jericho ... Brian Lee beat Tommy Dreamer in a falls-count-anywhere match. (05-17-96)

—Bart Orkline & Michael J. DiMuzio

SOUTH CAROLINA

GAFFNEY—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: Russian Assassin II (with Madd Maxxine) beat Billy the Kid by countout when Maxxine tried to kiss Billy and Billy fled the ring ... The PWF Juicer & Sweet Brown Sugar defeated Terry Austin & Austin Steele to win the tag team title ... PWF champion Carolina Dreamer defeated George South ... Italian Stallion won an eight-man tag team elimination match. (06-08-96)

—Brock Chandler

GREENVILLE—SCW at the Cowboys Nightlife Club: Johnny Dollar beat Butcher Blackwell ... Cruiser Lewis & Mikki Free defeated The Road Hogs ... The Nightmare & Russian Assassin beat J.J. Justice & Freedom Fighter by disqualification ... Madd Maxx Miles defeated S.W.A.T. ... Wahoo

McDaniel beat The Desperado by disqualification. (05-28-96)

—Dan Parris

MANNING—ACW at the Middle School: Brute Force defeated Matt & Jeff Hardy ... Venom beat Wachee the Samoan ... Champain Garner beat Colt Justice ... Jay Eagle & Johnny Red Cloud beat Les Parker & Ethan Storm ... Tag team champs The Ringlords beat Dynamo Kid & Willow the Wisp ... Chief Red Thunder beat Blackjack Dalton by disqualification ... Flash Gordon beat Wachee the Samoan ... The Rebel beat Cruel Connection I ... Brodie Chase & Mike Hart beat Champain Garner & Blackjack Dalton ... ACW champ Johnny B. Goode beat Big Slam by disqualification ... The Ringlords beat Matt & Jeff Hardy ... Chazz Rocco beat U.S. champ Jay Eagle by disqualification. (06-01-96)

—Dan Parris

FLORENCE—WWF In Your House VIII pay-per-view at the Civic Center: *In matches not broadcast on the pay-per-view*: The Smokin' Gunns defeated World tag team champs Henry & Phineas Godwinn (with Hillbilly Jim & Sunny) to win the title ... Bob Holly defeated Isaac Yankem ... Jake Roberts defeated Justin Bradshaw ... Savio Vega defeated Steve Austin (with Ted DiBiase) in a Caribbean strap match ... Ahmed Johnson beat Jerry Lawler ... The Ultimate Warrior beat Owen Hart ... Intercontinental champ Goldust beat The Undertaker in a casket match ... *In pay-per-view matches*: Marc Mero beat Hunter Hearst Helmsley ... World champion Shawn Michaels wrestled Davey Boy Smith to a draw. (05-26-96)

—Michael Carpenter

TRAVELERS REST—Southern Championship Wrestling at the HS: The Mercenary beat Johnny Dollar ... Cruiser Lewis & S.W.A.T. beat Mikki Free & Ricky Regal ... Butcher Blackwell beat Shane Austin ... Freedom Fighter & J.J. Justice beat The Russian Assassin & The Nightmare ... Heavyweight champ Madd Maxx Miles defeated Rick Michaels ... Tag team champions The Desperado & Jake Mulligan defeated J.W. Steele & Stone Cold Kid. (05-25-96)

—Dan Parris

INMAN—PWF at the Armory: The PWF Juicer & Sweet Brown Sugar beat The Russian Nightmare & The Equalizer ... Baby Huey beat Colt Justice ... Terry Austin beat PWF champ Carolina Dreamer by disqualification ... Rick Savage defeated Dave Jericho ... Italian Stallion & Chris Hamrick beat George South & Austin Steele ... The Russian Nightmare won a battle royal. (05-24-96)

—Dan Parris

TENNESSEE

WINFIELD—Cumberland Wrestling Council at Winfield Elementary School: Stallion beat Scorpion ... Mel Acres beat Bryan Worley by disqualification ... Mountain Man I beat Jamie Anderson ... Gabe Casstel beat Stonewall Jackson ... Mel & Kevin Acres wrestled Bryan Worley & Steve Stakk to a no-contest. (06-07-96)

—Bill Needham

COOKEVILLE—USWA at the Community Center: Cyberpunk Ice beat Leon Downs ... Flex Kavana beat The Punisher ... Bart Sawyer beat Yoshi Kwan ... Cyberpunk Fire beat Tony Falk ... USWA champ Jeff Jarrett beat Jesse James Armstrong in a strap-on-a-pole match ... Cyberpunk Fire won a battle royal. (06-02-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

MEMPHIS—USWA live television broadcast from WMC-TV studios (morning): Brian Christopher won a battle royal to earn a shot at Southern champ Jerry (Continued on page 52)

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JUNE 1995

APRIL 1996

JULY 1995 INSIDE WRESTLING is a power-packed 88-pageer (including four color pinups) that included our popular "Wrestling 'Cool'" section. Who's the coolest dude, babe, crippler, and daredevil? One thing all our readers agreed on: This issue was cool!

OCTOBER 1995 INSIDE WRESTLING reports on the state of affairs of World Championship Wrestling for the first half of 1995 in "WCW Midyear Report." We tell you how the stars fared among the turmoil in this special 88-page edition that includes four full-color pinups.

WINTER 1995 INSIDE WRESTLING gives you the birthdays of more than 180 of the hottest wrestlers in the sport today in a special pullout calendar and datebook. This book also features great historical information for each month!

APRIL 1996 INSIDE WRESTLING presents the third edition of the Inside Wrestling Computer Tournament, and the results just get more startling each year! The highlight of this annual 88-page special, as our readers have told us, is the computer-generated centerfold action shot from the tournament final.

JULY 1996 INSIDE WRESTLING takes you away from the wrestling ring and into the personal lives of wrestling's hottest stars. What makes Sunny cry? What's Sabu's favorite TV show? What's the dumbest thing Shawn Michaels has ever done? What scares Jim Cornette? What brings Sting down? This 88-pageer includes color shots of Sting, Sunny, Sabu, and Michaels.

arena reports

(Continued from page 50)

Lawler later on the program ... Flex Kavana pinned Tony Falk ... USWA champ Jeff Jarrett beat Charlie Laird ... Jesse James Armstrong, The Cyberpunks, Bart Sawyer, & Miss Texas beat Reggie B. Fine, Brickhouse Brown, Rocky Mountain Thunder, Ashley Hudson, & Samantha ... Brian Christopher defeated Southern champ Jerry Lawler to win the title.
(06-01-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio & Mark Mitchell

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: Tony Falk defeated Tony Williams ... Cyberpunk Ice beat Leon Downs ... Brickhouse Brown beat Shawn Williams ... Brickhouse Brown, Tony Falk, & Leon Downs defeated Cyberpunk Ice and Shawn & Tony Williams in an elimination match ... Miss Texas beat Samantha in a lingerie match ... Cyberpunk Fire beat Bill Dundee in a barbed-wire match ... Brian Christopher defeated Mo in a chain match ... Jerry Lawler beat Southern champion Mabel to win the title.
(05-20-96)

—Mark Mitchell

NEW MARKET—SCW at the New Market Fire Hall: Sgt. Rick Steele beat John T. Coleminer by disqualification ... Dr. Dan beat The Delaware Destroyer ... Sammy V beat Jody Ray Rivers by disqualification ... John T. Coleminer wrestled Dakota Sun to a draw ... Rick Conners beat Mike Powers ... Chris Powers & Deke Rivers wrestled Johnny Raynor & Steve Flynn to a double-disqualification.
(05-25-96)

—Bill Needham

MARYVILLE—All-State Wrestling at the Five Point Game Room: Rick Conners defeated Shogun ... Greg Hart beat Jeff Gann ... Tag team champions Felix & Alex Hutton beat Billy Marshall & Eric Rose ... ASW champion Tony Prichard beat Night Rider.
(05-24-96)

—Bill Needham

FALL BRANCH—SSW at The Sampson Center: One-night "King Of The Southern Independents" tournament, first round matches: War Machine beat Johnny Thunder ... David Lynch beat Alan Wayne ... Beau James beat T.C.B. Man ... Ricky Morton beat Scotty McKeever ... Alan King beat El Techno Rudo ... Wolfman wrestled Bubba to a double-countout ... Scott Sterling beat Frank Parker ... Danny Christian wrestled Steve Flynn to a draw ... Second round: Sterling beat Morton ... James beat War Machine ... King beat Lynch ... Final round: James beat King ... James beat Sterling to win the tournament ... Eddie Bruiser & Iron Man beat Mike Cooper & Stormtrooper in a non-tournament match.
(05-24-96)

—Fay Ferguson

TEXAS

AMARILLO—"Blast From The Past" independent card at the Sports Arena: The Viking defeated Greg Robertson ... Doink defeated Casey Cannon ... Tom Jones beat Treach Phillips Jr. ... Dusty Wolfe defeated Manny Villalobos ... Killer Brooks wrestled Randy Rhodes to a double-disqualification ... Dick Murdoch beat Rod Price.
(06-06-96)

—Brett Wolfe

VERMONT

ST. ALBANS—North Eastern Wrestling Federation at the Bellows Free Academy Gym: Andy Allison pinned Phil Slayer after a DDT ... Women's champion Misty Blue Simmes pinned Nasty Sherri ... Doink the Clown beat Judas ... King Sleazy

pinned Little Louie ... Virgil defeated Gary Myers with a sleeperhold ... Demolition Ax beat Cousin Luke.
(05-31-96)

—Bobby Castine

VIRGINIA

MARTINSVILLE—AIWF TV taping at the Boxing Center: Don Carson beat Leroy McCoy ... Sebastian Kane beat Elwood McCoy ... Brian Danzig beat Jackie Anderson ... The Intimidator beat Major Breakinridge ... The Ghostriders beat The Good Ol' Boys ... Major Breakinridge beat Johnny Reb ... Tag team champs Brian Danzig & Rick Deezel wrestled to a double-countout with The Ghostriders.
(06-08-96)

—Dean Puckett

ALEXANDRIA—IPWA at Secret Cove Sports Arena: Steve Corino pinned Sheik Ali ... Mark Schrader beat Quinn Nash to win the vacant light heavyweight title ... Abbudah Singh & Darkside Rebel defeated Lucifer & The Warrior ... Dan Severn beat Jimmy Z ... Jimmy Cicero beat Virgil by disqualification ... Corporal Punishment beat Gorgeous George III by disqualification ... King Kong Bundy pinned Big Slammer ... IPWA champ Johnny Gunn defeated Cueball Carmichael.
(06-07-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

WISCONSIN

KIMBERLY—Nu Age Wrestling at Tanner's Bar & Grill: The Ninja Warrior pinned Mike Medallion ... Tony the Annihilator beat The Illinois State Trooper ... Steve Boz pinned middleweight champ Brett Striker in a non-title bout ... The Texas Hangmen beat Bull Pain & Steele ... Mr. Green Bay pinned NAW champ Mr. Dynamic to win the title ... Tony the Annihilator won a battle royal.
(05-18-96)

—Wade Bates

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

JOLIETTE—Northern Championship Wrestling's "ChallengeMania IV" at the Arena: Marc the Grizzly, Boris Krushev, & Warlock beat Damien, The Rocker, & The Gentleman ... Warlock defeated Dan Ray ... Ivan the Terrible & El Diablero beat Dan Ray & Steph Belanger ... Golem the Giant beat Alexander the Magnificent in an anything goes match ... Chameleon beat The Rebel and Syl Dancer in a three-way match to win the Inter-City title ... Iceman & Frank Blues beat Quebec team champions Phil Belanger & Dream Killer to win the titles. According to a pre-match stipulation, Killer & Belanger had their heads shaved.
(06-01-96)

—Bertrand Hebert

MONTREAL—NCW at the NDR Arena: The Fire-fighters beat The Nightmares ... The Rebel beat Inter-city champ Chameleon to win the title ... The Rocker, Damien, & The Gentleman beat Marc the Grizzly, The Warlock, & The Ninja ... Golem the Giant beat Alexander the Magnificent ... Frank Blues beat Phil Belanger ... Iceman beat Dream Killer.
(05-26-96)

—Bertrand Hebert

BEAUHARNOIS—NCW at the Civic Center: Marc the Grizzly & The Rocker beat The Nightmares ... The Gentleman & Damion defeated Boris

Khrushchev & The Ninja ... Chameleon won a triangle match against Syl Dancer & The Rebel to win the Inter-city title ... Dream Killer & Phil Belanger beat Marc the Grizzly & The Rocker ... Alexander the Magnificent defeated Warlock ... Iceman & Frank Blues beat Golem the Giant & The Rebel.
(05-18-96)

—Bertrand Hebert

JAPAN

SAPPORO—All-Japan at the Nakajima Sports Center: The Lacrosse & The Patriot beat Tommy Rogers & Bobby Fulton ... Jumbo Tsuruta, Rusher Kimura, & Mitsuo Momonta beat Haruka Eigen, Mighty Inoue, & Ryukaku Izumida ... Giant Baba, Giant Kamala II, & Maunukea Mossman beat Dan Kroffat, Doug Furnas, & Masa Fuchi ... Toshiaki Kawada beat Kenta Kobashi ... Akira Taue beat Triple Crown champ Mitsuharu Misawa to win the titles.
(05-24-96)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

SAPPORO—All-Japan at the Nakajima Sports Center: Maunukea Mossman & The Lacrosse beat Masao Inoue & Tsuyoshi Kikuchi ... Tommy Rogers & Bobby Fulton beat Kentaro Shiga & Takan Omori ... Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas beat Tamon Honda & Ryukaku Izumida ... Giant Baba, Jumbo Tsuruta, & Rusher Kimura defeated Haruka Eigen, Masa Fuchi, & Mighty Inoue ... Mitsuharu Misawa & Jun Akiyama beat International tag team champs Toshiaki Kawada & Akira Taue to win the title.
(05-23-96)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

NOVEMBER

PENNSYLVANIA

HERSHEY—WWF at the Hershey Park Arena: Hillbilly Jim beat Jimmy Jack Funk ... Billy Jack Haynes beat Steve Lombardi ... Roddy Piper beat Bob Orton Jr. ... Don Muraco beat George Steele by disqualification ... World tag team champs Brutus Beefcake & Greg Valentine defeated The Islanders ... Hercules beat Koko B. Ware ... Kamala beat Pedro Morales by disqualification.
(11-21-86)

—Jay Kyzdek

MAINE

BOSTON—WWF at Boston Gardens: Manuel Soto beat Joe Turco ... Jamaica Kid & Sonny Boy Hayes beat Little Brutus & Sky Low Low ... Tony Marino beat The Black Demon ... Victor Rivera defeated Crusher Verdu ... Ivan Koloff beat Gorilla Monsoon ... John L. Sullivan beat Vincente Pometti ... Bruno Sammartino & Chief Jay Strongbow beat The Mongols in a best-of-three-falls match.
(11-07-71)

—Stuart B. Anthony

FLORIDA

TAMPA—WCW at the Bayfront Center: Big Josh, Mike Graham, & Arachnoman beat Tony Mello, Terrence Taylor, & Thomas Rich ... Madusa Miceli defeated Bambi ... Big Van Vader beat P.N. News ... Light heavyweight champion Brian Pillman beat Lou Perez ... Cactus Jack beat Van Hammer ... Scott Steiner beat Mr. Hughes ... World tag team champions Dustin Rhodes & Rick Steamboat defeated Arn Anderson & Larry Zbyszko ... Sting beat U.S. champ Rick Rude in a non-title match ... World champ Lex Luger defeated Rick Steiner by disqualification.
(11-29-91)

—PWI archives

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True or False: Hulk Hogan is the only wrestler to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated

- 1) True
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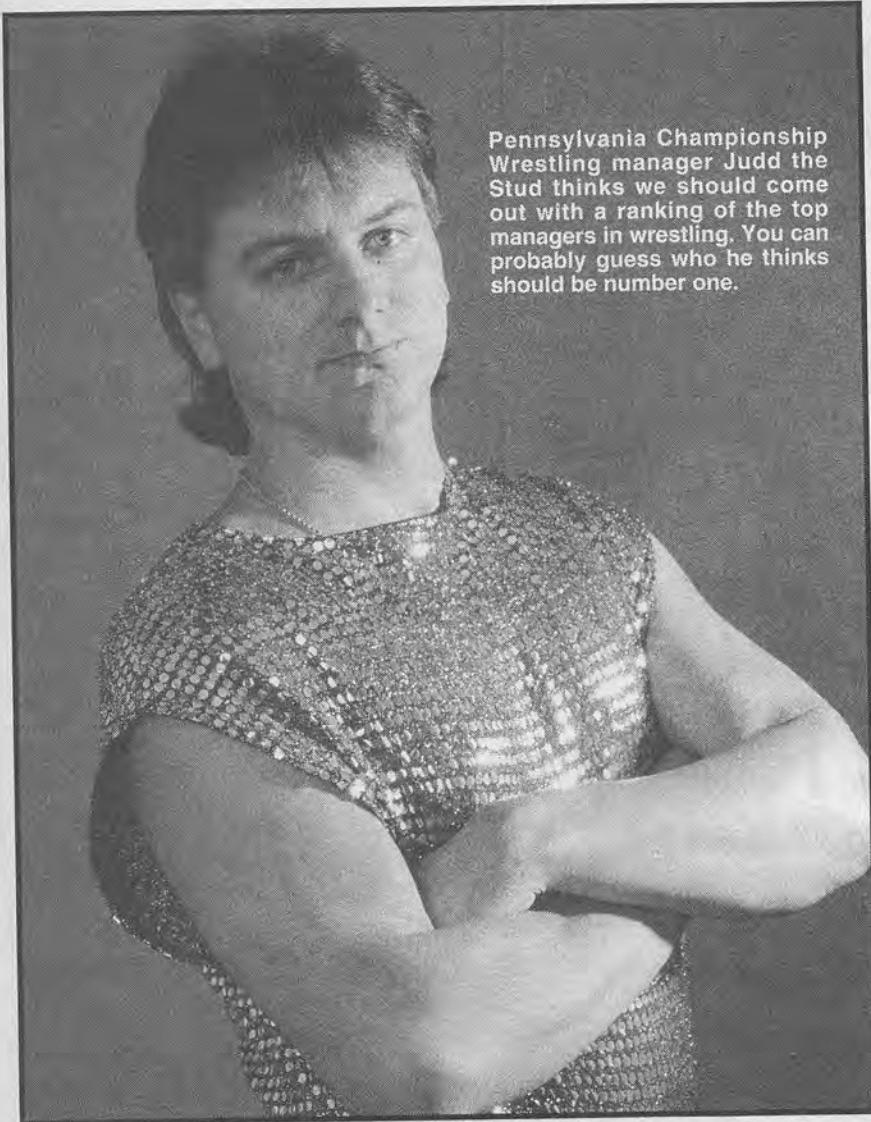


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between falls

(Continued from page 5)



Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling manager Judd the Stud thinks we should come out with a ranking of the top managers in wrestling. You can probably guess who he thinks should be number one.

Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling: Mark Mest, D-Lo Brown, Race Richards III, Maxx Crimson, and Reckless Youth. We are the supreme stable in wrestling today. Who needs four old, beat-up work horses when you have these great specimens in PCW?

JUDD THE STUD
Reading, PA

POINTS TO PONDER

I was just sitting here watching wrestling when a few thoughts crossed my mind:

- Why has the childish commentary of Steve McMichael and Eric Bischoff made me dream of the days of Gorilla Monsoon and Vince McMahon?

- Why do I experience an intense feeling of *deja vu* when I hear about an upcoming WCW pay-per-view?

- Why do I find WCW's live Nitro more predictable than a taped WWF Monday Night Raw (even when Raw results are given away)?

- Why is it since Halloween Havoc, no WCW World champion has kept the title longer than four consecutive months?

- Why is it that the WWF can develop young talent into major stars while WCW can't, even though it has its own

MANAGING TO WRITE

I can't understand why the editors of Pro Wrestling Illustrated refuse to acknowledge great wrestling managers such as myself in a ranking of the top managers in the world. If you can spend months trying to figure out who are the best 500 wrestlers in the world, then why can't you do it for us managers? It would only take a little bit of your time but, hey, I'll help you out since I'm such a nice guy. Just put Judd the Stud at the top. I'm the best manager in the world, so don't bother looking anywhere else.

I defy anyone to find a better stable of wrestlers than my "Stallions" in



"Wait just one minute! Who's paying for the chair."

training center in The Power Plant?

•Why is it that most of WCW's stars' best matches did not happen in WCW?

Like I said, just wondering.

TODD V. ESPINOSA
Buffalo, NY



Sunny has been going from team to team to team in the WWF of late, and reader Bob Kimmell doesn't like it. He says he's not sure she is as great a manager as she thinks.

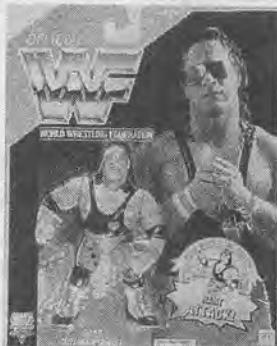
MIND OVER MATTER

How could Sunny turn her back on Skip and Zip and then Phineas Godwinn, too? She's just a user, plain and simple. I used to respect her as an independent woman who respected herself, her managerial abilities, and the men whose careers she guided. Sunny used to get noticed more because of her mind than her looks. What happened? I am beginning to think she used her mind to get herself noticed and now feels that she needs to promote her looks to get an edge she doesn't have. Sunny has now become like so many other female managers in wrestling; she isn't anything more than a glorified valet.

Maybe Sunny really doesn't have that special something that makes a great manager. I could be wrong, of course, but if she has a great business mind, then she should flaunt that instead of her body.

BOB KIMMELL
Hollywood, FL □

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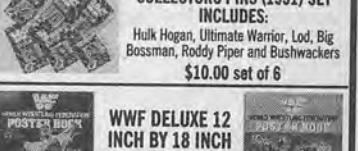
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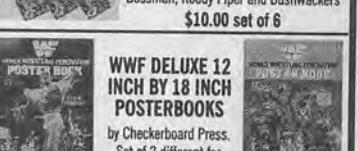
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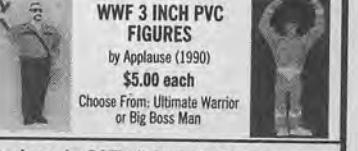
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yoshi kwan

(Continued from page 34)



Sometimes Kwan can't take the time to smile, because he must concentrate on the work at hand. It's especially important for him to focus when he's using that sword to do a little carving.

Yoshi's psychotic antics.

"When I saw the sword, I couldn't believe he was going to use it on me," veteran Gypsy Joe said. "Something like that is just uncalled for. I mean, there have to be lines of decency. A man can't risk his life every time he steps into the ring against Kwan, but that's what he's doing. I think we're going to reach a point where everybody will refuse to wrestle him."

Larry Valentine might be the first. He remembers the feeling when Kwan pressed into his shoulders with a nervehold.

"His fingernails were sharp, and the pressure was unbearable," Valentine recalled. "The referee told him to break the hold, but Kwan refused, which didn't surprise me. Personally, I don't think he can function in a normal society. He's just having a great old time, mutilating anybody who's in his path."

Kwan, who often comes to the ring in white face and kabuki robe, learned some of his antics from Harley Race, who also managed Big

Van Vader during his reign of terror over WCW. According to Race, however, Kwan is actually more sadistic than Vader.

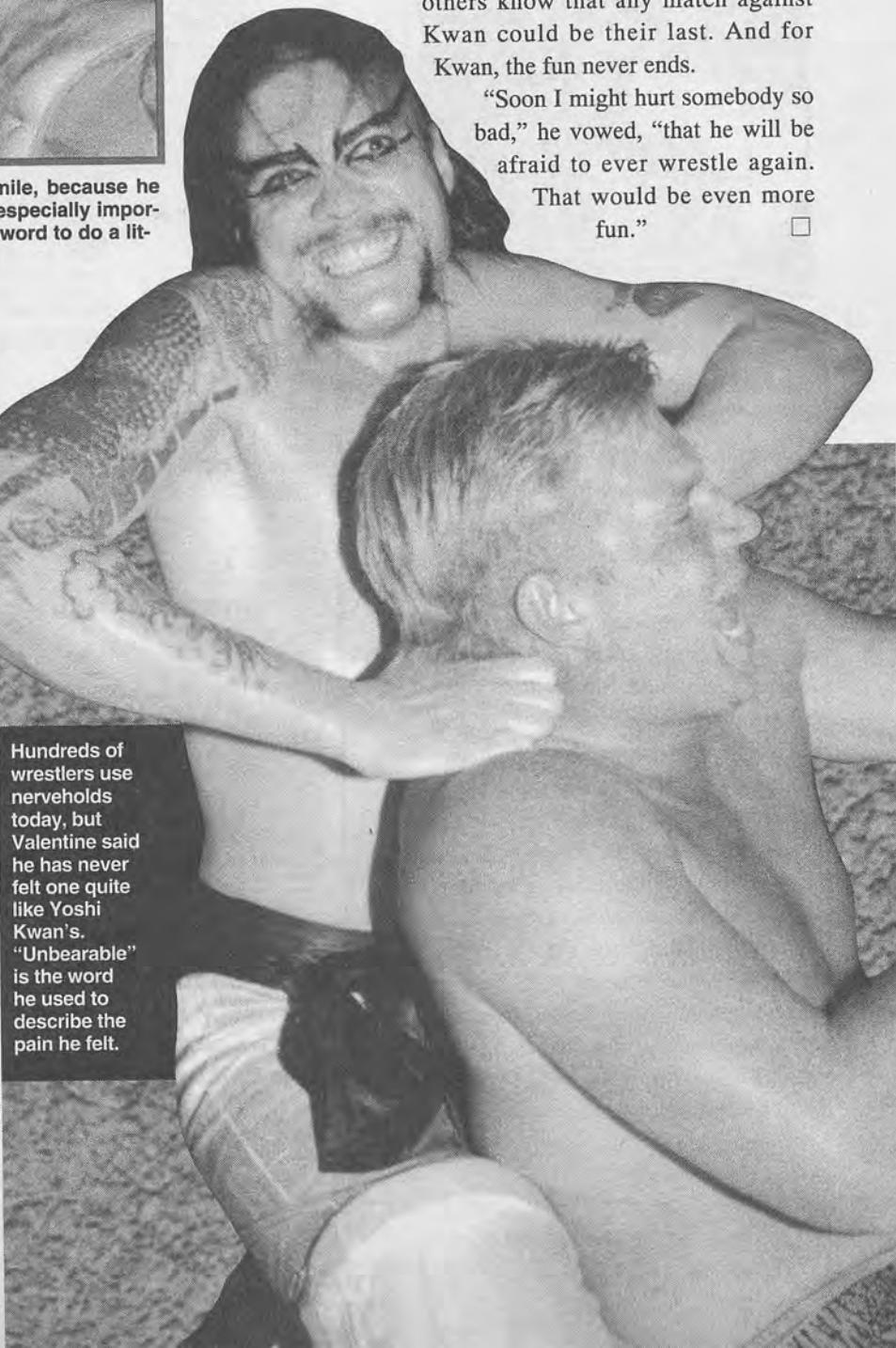
"Vader has more skills than Kwan, no question about it,"

Race said. "But what's Kwan's limit? He doesn't have any. He'll do anything to hurt someone, even if he suffers a serious injury himself while doing it. He's the kind of wrestler you love to manage."

That might be the case, but Kwan is certainly not the kind of wrestler you want to face in the ring. Valentine and others know that any match against Kwan could be their last. And for Kwan, the fun never ends.

"Soon I might hurt somebody so bad," he vowed, "that he will be afraid to ever wrestle again.

That would be even more fun." □



Hundreds of wrestlers use nerveholds today, but Valentine said he has never felt one quite like Yoshi Kwan's. "Unbearable" is the word he used to describe the pain he felt.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Wrestling historians, rejoice! Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than a decade—but a recent transfer of warehouse inventory from New York to Pennsylvania uncovered a small supply of these classic publications! Obviously, supplies are extremely limited, so all magazines will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis only. Prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the number of available copies. For speediest service, use VISA or MasterCard or make payment by money order or certified check. Please don't send cash! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime chance to own a memorable piece of wrestling history! Once they're gone, they'll never be offered for sale again—so order today!

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Published between 1959 and 1964, *Wrestling Revue* is acknowledged as one of the finest series of wrestling magazines ever produced. These beautiful editions, all edited and published by Stanley Weston (founder of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, *The Wrestler*, and *Inside Wrestling*, among so many other titles) set a standard for all wrestling magazines that followed, and are available now for the first time in many years!

Fall 1961 Edouard Carpentier challenges Floyd Patterson, Bruiser vs. Cowboy Bob Ellis, The Zebra Kid, killer holds, action at The Kiel, Nick Bockwinkel vs. Dr. X, and full-color action of the Bastiens vs. Shires & Nelson. **\$25**

December 1961 An extensive Buddy Rogers interview, Bobo Brazil, Fred Blassie, Pepper Gomez, the Torres brothers, Whipper Watson, "Sailor" Art Thomas, Ricki Starr, plus a full-color centerfold of Mark Lewin & Don Curtis. **\$35**

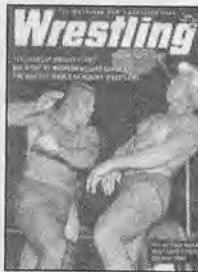
February 1962 Dick Beyer, Mitsi Arakawa, Edouard Carpentier vs. Lou Thesz, Angelo Poffo, a five-girl battle royal, Don and Jackie Fargo, Billy Zabyszko, Larry Chene, plus a full-color centerfold of Guy & Joe Brunetti. **\$30**

April 1962 Wilbur Snyder, Luis Martinez, Madison Square Garden closeup, Julie Brynner, Billy Wolfe, Don Leo Jonathan vs. Pat O'Connor, closeup on midgets, plus a full-color centerfold of Bearcat Wright. **\$30**

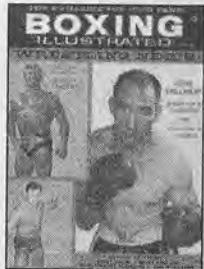
June 1962 Eddie Graham, Verne Gagne, wrestlers vs. boxers, Dory Dixon, Yukon Eric, Tony Lanza, Lorraine Johnson vs. Kay Noble, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard, The Crusher, plus a full-color centerfold of Red Bastien. **\$25**

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February 1964 Edouard Carpentier vs. Killer Kowalski, Florida wrestling, Mad Dog Vachon, Fabulous Moolah, Fritz Von Erich, Rene Goulet, Cyclops, plus a full-color centerfold of Bruno Sammartino. **\$35**



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September 1959 Boxing: Carmen Basilio, the perfect kayo, Tiger Flowers, Joe Brown, Paolo Rosi. **Wrestling:** Edouard Carpentier, Ricki Starr, Enrique Torres. **\$25**

October 1962 Boxing: Special edition previewing the Floyd Patterson vs. Sonny Liston bout! **Wrestling:** "Handsome" Johnny Barend, Andre Drapp, "Sailor" Art Thomas, five pages of results. **\$30**

October 1963 Boxing: Cassius Clay, Joe Lynch, Frankie Narvaez, Tommy Loughran. **Wrestling:** Crusher vs. Verne Gagne, Tony Manous, The Dirty Daltons, results. **\$25**

February 1964 Boxing: Sonny Liston, Joey Archer, 1963 in review, Cassius Clay. **Wrestling:** Bruno Sammartino vs. Gorilla Monsoon, Emile Dupre, Bruiser vs. Bob Ellis, results. **\$30**

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

WRESTLING REVUE

- Fall 1961
- December 1961
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- April 1962
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sunny

(Continued from page 21)

Godwinns, and Gunns and, by her own admission, had meetings with The New Rockers. That means she will be an invaluable strategist for whichever team she manages. And if one team fails her, she can move on to one of the others.

She isn't above switching sides at the drop of a hat.

"I'm convinced that really is her plan," said Tony Anthony, who wrestled against Sunny-managed wrestlers in Smoky Mountain. "She'll play all these guys for fools for her own personal gain."

Of course, Sunny dismisses the criticism, but admits she wants to know as much as possible about the WWF tag team scene, and maybe more than that.

"Knowledge is power," said Cornette. "The more she knows, the more successful she'll be. I also wouldn't be surprised if she got back into singles wrestling."

So it's possible, then, that Sunny will ultimately try to do to

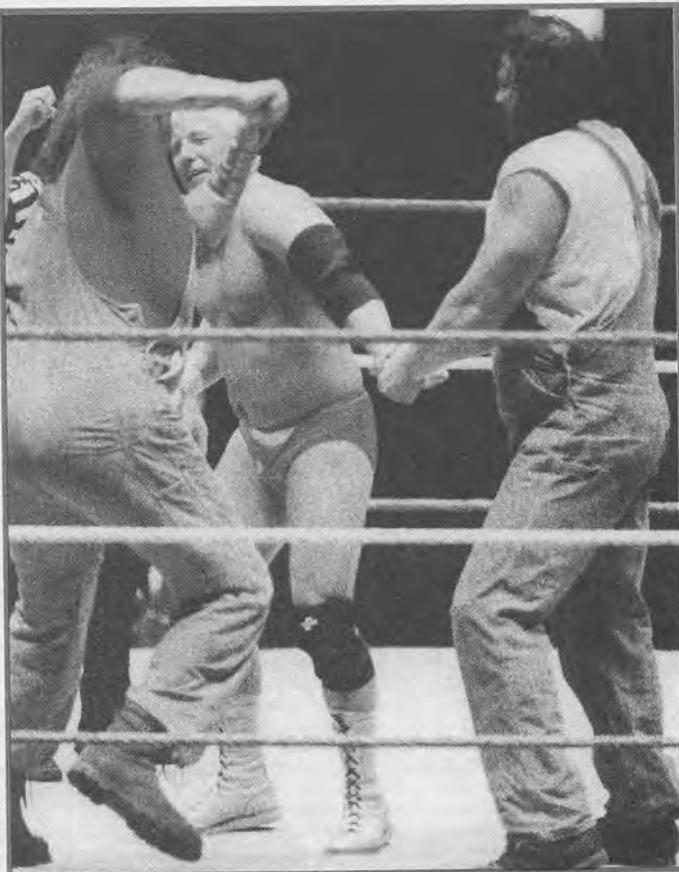
Henry Godwinn applies a wristlock on Zip while Phineas uses his elbow on him. Sunny is probably enjoying watching these teams do battle now. For the moment, she's worried about The Smokin' Gunns holding on to the WWF tag belts.

the singles circuit what she has done on the tag team scene. She may want to hop, skip, and jump among stars like Shawn Michaels, Goldust, and Hunter Hearst Helmsley.

It's a frightening possibility.

"Before she considers taking it that far," said one WWF wrestler, "she should be stopped.

Somebody has to beat The Gunns! And if either The Body-



donnas or Godwinns do it, they both have to tell her to take a hike if she wants to manage them."

"It won't be easy to keep Sunny out of power," Cornette said. "She's ruthless. And it'll be just as hard to get The Bodydonnas and Godwinns to agree on something. Those boys hate each other!"

If they can't work together against her, a very power-hungry manager may be on her way to achieving her wish for complete domination of a federation.

If they do, she may be reduced to merely posing in swimsuits. □



The Bodydonnas might have a new manager, but our guess is that they long for the day when Sunny will be back in their corner. That's the last thing they need.

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giant

(Continued from page 30)

course. He's an average-sized man with good strength and excellent speed; I'm The Giant, the most powerful man in the history of the sport, plus I have agility and speed that no man my size has ever before displayed. I'm to wrestling what Magic Johnson was to basketball. Nobody ever saw a 6'9" point guard until Magic came along. He could do it all offensively, and there wasn't another point guard in the world who could stop him. That would be Shawn Michaels: bewildered by my moves, my speed, my leaping ability. Heck, if he wants to play me one-on-one in basketball, I'm available for that, too!

One thing Michaels has going for him is a devastating finishing maneuver, the superkick. He can be trailing in a match and turn it around in an instant with that move. I'd use lateral movement to take that weapon away, though considering our height differential, I'm not sure how effective it could be against me, anyway.

Most guys who are as fast as Michaels automatically assume that big men can't possibly keep up with them, and I'd turn that misconception to my advantage. From the outset, I'd move slowly and methodically, luring him into thinking that I'm big and lumbering and one-dimensional. I know that he'd try to keep out of my reach, but eventually the fans would start screaming for him to do something, and probably against his better judgment, he would move in. Once there, he'd be mine!

Believe me, there is nothing a guy weighing 225 [actually 234] pounds can do to stop my attack. As soon as he made that initial mistake of moving out of his defensive mode, I'd grab him,

give him a wrestling lesson, choke-slam him, and that would be it. I'd punish him for even considering taking this match in the first place!

Look, I don't want to say anything bad about anybody else in this sport.



The Giant thinks that if he remained very patient against Shawn Michaels, he'd eventually force Shawn into a foolish move. Once that happened, he says, he'd destroy Michaels, the same way he has destroyed Sting and many others.

Like I said earlier, if you're man enough to step into that ring in the first place, you should be given the respect a man deserves. But I've been in this sport for almost a year now, and I haven't come across an opponent who can even make me break a sweat yet. Nobody's gonna tell me that Shawn Michaels would be the first. □

shawn

(Continued from page 31)

Shawn Michaels can. Few others in the history of the sport have. The Giant? His record is spotless. He's manhandled everybody who's crossed his path. That's great, isn't it? Not really. "The Heartbreak Kid" would be able to do things in the ring against The Giant that no other man has been able to do. That's a fact. Just how would The Giant react to adversity? That's really an unanswered question.

I do know that a wrestler doesn't want his first taste of adversity against me. Once I've sensed uncertainty in a wrestler, he's in deep, deep trouble. I'll capitalize on that and just make it worse and worse for him.

I know there are people who will say that a good big man will beat a good little man every time. If both wrestlers are at the same level in every regard, and the only difference was size, I'd agree with that statement. In real life, it never works that way. I

would be foolish to underestimate any opponent, especially one with such obvious physical gifts, but The Giant is stepping up to a different class of athlete when he gets in there with Shawn Michaels.

Too many of The Giant's opponents freeze up when they see how big he is, and in that instant he simply grabs them and finishes them with a choke-slam. That wouldn't happen to me. I'd dart in and out, strike and retreat, and eventually impose my will. His confidence would be down so low. In his mind he would see me as being bigger than he is. Once I see the look in his eye that he has mentally thrown in the towel, I'd hit him in the chin with a superkick and cover him for the pin.

If The Giant wants to wrestle "The Heartbreak Kid," my advice to him is to wait about three or four years. A loss of this magnitude at this stage of his career could be devastation. □

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Negate The Giant's size advantage and methodically bring him down—that's what Shawn Michaels would do if he wrestled the WCW World champ. He doesn't think The Giant has ever stepped into the ring with anyone quite like him.



time capsules

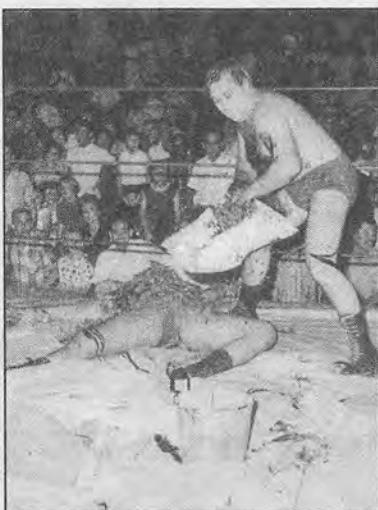


"OH, HONEY, YOU GOT YOURSELF ALL CUT UP AGAIN. SHOULD I KISS IT AND MAKE IT BETTER?"

That's wrestler Greg Peterson getting some tender loving care, not from a medical attendant, but from his wife, Bobbie Joyce, after his July 1964 match with Billy Boy Hines. She didn't seem the least bit disgusted by all the blood flowing down her husband's face. Apparently wrestlers' wives get used to that kind of thing.

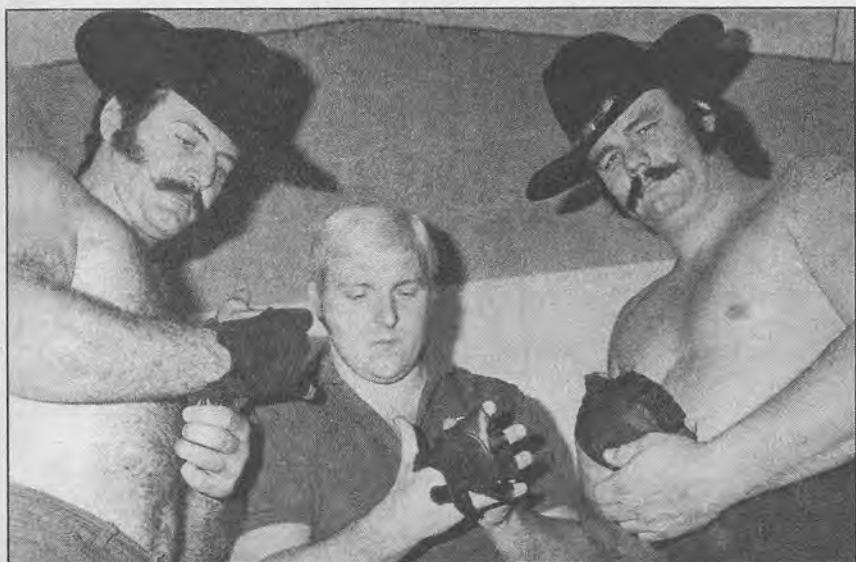
WE CAN'T RESIST SAYING IT: CANNON HAD A BIG BONE TO PICK WITH ERIC THE RED

In reality, he didn't. George "Crybaby" Cannon was the manager of the very wild Eric the Red when this photo was taken in October of 1975. They were a very dangerous duo. Maybe the reason Cannon looks unhappy was that he objected to Eric's choice for a prematch snack.



"COME ON, A LITTLE TAR AND A FEW FEATHERS NEVER HURT ANYBODY"

Sheer joy turned to complete shock for Johnny Weaver in a matter of seconds after a 1964 match with Louie Tillet in Austin, Texas. Weaver turned around to acknowledge the cheers of the crowd after beating Tillet in a "loser-gets-tarred-and-feathered" bout. However, when he turned around, Tillet used the house microphone to knock him unconscious, then tarred and feathered *him*. Weaver got the last laugh, though. A promoter and a referee prevented Tillet from escaping the ring and made sure he got tarred and feathered a bit himself.



THE GLOVES DON'T MAKE THE MAN

Blackjack Lanza and Blackjack Mulligan always made for a very imposing tandem, with or without their black cowboy hats and gloves, and with or without manager Bobby Heenan at their side. These were two tough, fearless, and reckless brawlers. And although Heenan has always been a very smart and shrewd man, he'd need more than a black glove if he wanted to be as tough as his two charges.

Every other month, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will pore through its massive photo collection to bring you some of the most unique photographs the mat world has ever seen!

"COME ON, PAL, THEY DON'T PAY US ENOUGH TO GET IN BETWEEN THOSE TWO MANIACS!"

This October 1962 brawl between Steve Stanlee and Frank Scarpa got way out of hand. When one official tried to separate them, he was knocked onto his back, and when another tried to offer *his* assistance, he got the same treatment. The remaining officials back in the locker room quickly learned from the mistakes of these two men. They didn't get anywhere near Stanlee and Scarpa!



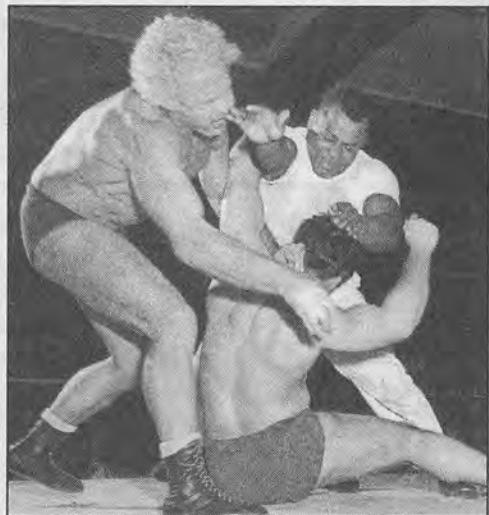
"DID THE FLASH GO OFF ... CAN WE STOP SMILING NOW?"

Bill Watts' old UWF was one of the hottest promotions going in the mid-1980s, and the top fan favorites really seemed to enjoy what they did there. They also enjoyed posing for pictures. From left, it's Wahoo McDaniel, Dusty Rhodes, Bill Watts, Hacksaw Duggan, and Dick Murdoch, who recently died of a heart attack.



IF HE REALLY WANTED TO SING, WHO WAS GOING TO STOP HIM?

For such a big, strong, tough man, wrestler Frank Townsend had a smooth voice. When he had a night off from wrestling, he'd often take his friends out to a nightclub, where he couldn't resist belting out a few songs. And he was no Nikolai Volkoff, who used to embarrass even some of his fellow rulebreakers with his grating version of the Soviet national anthem. He was truly good!



"IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA BREAK THE HOLD, I'LL BREAK IT FOR YOU!"

Referee Luther Lindsay gave Henry Lenz every opportunity to break the full-nelson he had Pierre DeGlane, who had already submitted. He warned and threatened him, but Henry just wouldn't listen. A right to the jaw got his attention, though. Too bad more referees aren't so bold!



PRO *Wrestling* ILLUSTRATED

TOP 10

1 SHAWN MICHAELS

234, San Antonio, TX

(1) WWF World champion

2 THE GIANT

430, parts unknown

(2) WCW World champion

3 RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

(-) U.S. heavyweight champion

4 AHMED JOHNSON

255, Pearl River, MS

(-) WWF Intercontinental champion

5 KONNAN

237, Mexico City, Mexico

(7) No. 3 contender: WCW World title

6 STING

260, Venice Beach, CA

(3) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

7 JEFF JARRETT

230, Nashville, TN

(-) USWA heavyweight champion

8 LEX LUGER

265, Chicago, IL

(5) WCW TV champion

9 STEVE AUSTIN

241, Dallas, TX

(-) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

10 REY MISTERIO JR.

140, San Diego, CA

(-) WCW cruiserweight champion

PWI's Top 10



Rey Mysterio Jr.

WCW

World Champion:

THE GIANT

(C) 430, parts unknown

1—RIC FLAIR

(4) 243, Minneapolis, MN

2—STING

(2) 260, Venice Beach, CA

3—KONNAN

(1) 237, Mexico City, Mexico

4—LEX LUGER

(3) 265, Chicago, IL

5—REY MISTERIO JR.

(-) 140, San Diego, CA

6—RANDY SAVAGE

(5) 237, Sarasota, FL

7—ARN ANDERSON

(7) 249, Minneapolis, MN

8—DEAN MALENKO

(6) 216, Tampa, FL

9—DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

(10) 260, Tampa, FL

10—EDDY GUERRERO

(-) 221, Los Angeles, CA

WWF

World Champion:

SHAWN MICHAELS

(C) 234, San Antonio, TX

1—AHMED JOHNSON

(5) 255, Pearl River, MS

2—GOLDUST

(1) 254, Austin, TX

3—STEVE AUSTIN

(9) 241, Dallas, TX

4—DAVEY BOY SMITH

(2) 245, Leeds, England

5—MANKIND

(-) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM

6—THE UNDERTAKER

(3) 328, parts unknown

7—BIG VAN VADER

(6) 450, Denver, CO

8—JAKE ROBERTS

(-) 253, Stone Mountain, GA

9—SAVIO VEGA

(8) 260, Vega Alta, Puerto Rico

10—MARC MERO

(10) 235, Macon, GA

USWA

USWA Champion:

JEFF JARRETT

(C) 230, Nashville, TN

1—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

(1) 230, Memphis, TN

2—DOUG GILBERT

(9) 241, Lexington, TN

3—JERRY LAWLER

(2) 234, Memphis, TN

4—BILL DUNDEE

(4) 219, Melbourne, Australia

5—KOKO B. WARE

(-) 229, Union City, TN

6—WOLFIE D

(-) 250, parts unknown

7—TONY ANTHONY

(-) 235, Bucksport, TN

8—FLEX KAVANA

(-) 272, Pearl City, HI

9—TOMMY RICH

(-) 248, Hendersonville, TN

10—MO

(-) 285, Harlem, NY

ECW

ECW Champion:

RAVEN

(C) 235, Short Hills, NJ

1—CHRIS JERICHO

(10) 225, Vancouver, British Columbia

2—THE SANDMAN

(-) 244, Philadelphia, PA

3—TOMMY DREAMER

(7) 245, Yonkers, NY

4—SHANE DOUGLAS

(2) 223, Pittsburgh, PA

5—BRIAN LEE

(9) 251, Los Angeles, CA

6—PIT BULL II

(1) 231, Philadelphia, PA

7—TAZ

(6) 221, Red Hook, NY

8—ROB VAN DAM

(5) 227, Battle Creek, MI

9—MIKEY WHIPRECK

(4) 187, New York, NY

10—TERRY GORDY

(-) 289, Chattanooga, TN

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue, while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

1	SHAWN MICHAELS
234, San Antonio, TX	
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular	
2	STING
260, Venice Beach, CA	
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular	
3	AHMED JOHNSON
255, Pearl River, MS	
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular	
4	THE UNDERTAKER
328, parts unknown	
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular	
5	LEX LUGER
265, Chicago, IL	
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular	
6	RANDY SAVAGE
237, Sarasota, FL	
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular	
7	JAKE ROBERTS
253, Stone Mountain, GA	
Last issue: unrated	
8	REY MISTERIO JR.
140, San Diego, CA	
Last issue: unrated	
9	SAVIO VEGA
260, Vega Alta, Puerto Rico	
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular	
10	EDDY GUERRERO
221, Los Angeles, CA	
Last issue: unrated	

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:	SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(C) 287, Gisu, Japan	
1	NOBUHIKO TAKADA
(1) 231, Yokohama, Japan	
2	THE GREAT MUTA
(4) 245, Tokyo, Japan	
3	GREAT SASUKE
(2) 212, Tokyo, Japan	
4	JUSHIN LIGER
(3) 206, Hiroshima, Japan	
5	KAZUO YAMAZAKI
(-) 182, Tokyo, Japan	
6	HIROYOSHI TENZAN
(8) 270, Tokyo, Japan	
7	MASA CHONO
(6) 235, Tokyo, Japan	
8	GENICHIRO TENRYU
(7) 235, Tokyo, Japan	
9	KENSUKE SASAKI
(-) 233, Tokyo, Japan	
10	RIKI CHOSHU
(9) 246, Yamaguchi, Japan	

MOST HATED

1	HULK HOGAN
275, Venice Beach, CA	
Last issue: unrated	
2	GOLDUST
254, Austin, TX	
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated	
3	SCOTT HALL
290, Miami, FL	
Last issue: unrated	
4	KEVIN NASH
356, Detroit, MI	
Last issue: unrated	
5	THE GIANT
430, parts unknown	
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated	
6	MANKIND
277, Truth or Consequences, NM	
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated	
7	STEVE MCMICHAEL
270, Austin, TX	
Last issue: unrated	
8	STEVE AUSTIN
241, Dallas, TX	
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated	
9	RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN	
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated	
10	JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN	
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated	

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:	AKIRA TAUKE
(C) 265, Tokyo, Japan	
1	MITSUHARU MISAWA
(1) 228, Saitama, Japan	
2	MASA FUCHI
(-) 225, Tokyo, Japan	
3	KENTA KOBASHI
(2) 261, Tokyo, Japan	
4	JUN AKIYAMA
(-) 230, Hiroshima, Japan	
5	YOSHINARI OGAWA
(5) 202, Fuchigi, Japan	
6	GARY ALBRIGHT
(7) 343, Billings, MT	
7	TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(3) 245, Tizhigi, Japan	
8	STEVE WILLIAMS
(4) 265, Norman, OK	
9	JOHNNY ACE
(8) 250, San Bernadino, CA	
10	STAN HANSEN
(6) 322, Borger, TX	

For period ended July 9, 1996

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1 — BRET HART	60 points
2 — SHAWN MICHAELS	59 points
3 — THE UNDERTAKER	50 points
4 — STING	45 points
5 — THE GIANT	40 points

TAG TEAMS

1 — THE SMOKIN' GUNNS	66 points
2 — HARLEM HEAT	58 points
3 — LEX LUGER & STING	56 points
4 — SKIP & ZIP	52 points
5 — RICK & SCOTT STEINER	35 points

AAA: AAA Champion—Konnan; 1—Rey Mysterio Jr.; 2—Pieroth Jr.; 3—Juventud Guerrera; 4—La Parka; 5—Perro Aguayo; 6—Ultimo Dragon; 7—Psicosis; 8—Jerry Estrada; 9—Cien Caras; 10—Super Calo.

ACW: ACW Champion—T. Rantula; 1—Rick Martel; 2—Frank Stalletto; 3—Lord Zoltan; 4—Johnny Graham; 5—Brick Bronsky; 6—Tito Santana; 7—Reckless Youth; 8—Johnny Gunn; 9—Glen Osbourne; 10—Race Richards III.

CWA: CWA Champion—Kevin Sullivan; 1—Jimmy Snuka; 2—Vic Steamboat; 3—Ace Darling; 4—Hugh Morris; 5—Devon Storm; 6—Metal Maniac; 7—El Mascarado; 8—Inferno Kid; 9—Knuckles Nelson; 10—Pink Assassin.

NAASW: NAASW Champion—Colorado Kid; 1—Justin St. John; 2—Ron McClarthy; 3—Shaw Williams; 4—Chris Graham; 5—J.C. Ice; 6—Man Mountain Mike; 7—Charlie Parker; 8—Giant Warrior; 9—Pink Phantom; 10—Reggie Montgomery.

PCW: PCW Champion—Mark Mest; 1—Ray Odyssey; 2—Dr. Isaac Yankem; 3—Cheetah Master; 4—Lance Diamond; 5—King Kong Bundy; 6—Reckless Youth; 7—Maxx Crimson; 8—Jimmy Deo; 9—Ace Darling; 10—D.Z. Gillespie.

PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; 1—Lenny Lane; 2—Wellington Wilkinson; 3—Horace the Psychopath; 4—Charlie Norris; 5—J.B. Trask; 6—Tom Zenk; 7—Blacktop Bully; 8—Nailz; 9—Sam Houston; 10—Dan Jesser.

PWF: PWF Champion—Carolina Dreamer; 1—George South; 2—Italian Stallion; 3—Austin Steele; 4—Russian Assassin II; 5—Flaming Youth; 6—Cruel Connection II; 7—Chris Hamrick; 8—Terry Austin; 9—Star Ryder; 10—Gladiator II.

WWA: WWA Champion—Jim McPherson; 1—King Kong Bundy; 2—Jimmy Snuka; 3—Rodney Farr; 4—Ikon; 5—Bud Licious; 6—Metal Maniac; 7—Chuck Sloan; 8—Stryker; 9—Pat the Crippler; 10—Tricky Nicky.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 19 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Goodbye and hello. By now you almost certainly know all about the defections of **Diesel** and **Razor Ramon** from the WWF to WCW, but since neither had wrestled in WCW as of press time, neither man makes the WCW ratings this month.

That will change soon, though. And don't be surprised if both men end up back in the Most Hated rankings, too. Ramon hardly resembled the fan favorite the fans in the WWF loved during the last three years of his WWF tenure. Upon arriving in WCW on Memorial Day, he ripped **Eric Bischoff** and was booed by most of the fans.

Diesel acted like a bitter, spiteful man during his last few months in the WWF and wasn't above insulting anyone. He said that was the real "Big Daddy Cool," too, and accused the higher-ups at the WWF of trying to make him into a nicer, more gentle man when he held the WWF World title. Like Ramon, he made a rather rude entrance into WCW this spring. And we haven't even mentioned the heinous attack both men perpetrated upon Bischoff at The Great American Bash.

A question that some WWF fans might want to ask is this: Who in the WWF now benefits most from the departures of Razor and Diesel? A lot of people could. There are plenty of very talented wrestlers in the WWF right now who could get a chance to move toward main event status. How about **Savio Vega**, **Marc Mero**, **Steve Austin**, and **Hunter Hearst Helmsley**, just to name a few?

Vega has come very close to winning the Intercontinental title several times and now that he holds several victories over Austin, he could be in line for more title shots.

Mero and Austin both won titles in WCW and keep getting better and better with each match. And Helmsley, though he has struggled in the last six months, might finally get his chance to shine. He did defeat Ramon several times just prior to Razor's departure from the WWF, so it might just be a matter of him building up some more confidence in himself.

And don't count out **Brian Pillman**, who signed with the WWF in June. If he can recover from the leg injuries he suffered in an automobile accident in April, he has the talent to become a top star in the WWF.



Savio Vega

Tag team confusion. Approximately one year ago, we were really coming down hard on both WCW and the WWF for not taking it upon themselves to improve their tag team rosters. We're not doing that anymore. WCW has so many good teams now—**Sting** and **Lex Luger**, **Rick and Scott Steiner**, **Harlem Heat**, **The Nasty Boys**, **Fire and Ice** (Scott Norton and Ice Train), and **Public Enemy**, to name a half-dozen, and the WWF has **The Smokin' Gunns**, **The Bodydonnas** (Skip and Zip), **Henry** and **Phineas Godwinn**, **The Bushwhackers**, and **The New Rockers** (Leif Cassidy and Marty Jannetty).

If you look at the situation objectively, you'd have to say WCW has the stronger roster from top to bottom, yet many fans have written to ask us why the Godwinns, Gunns, and Bodydonnas have often occupied the top slot in our tag team ratings, ahead of Sting and Luger, the Steiners, and the Nastys.

The answer is actually quite simple: We usually reserve the top two spots in our tag team ratings for the WCW and WWF world tag team champions (not necessarily in that order) ... unless one or both teams gives us a good reason to rank them lower.

Sting and Luger have given us reason to do just that. As WCW tag team champs, they have often gone several weeks without defending their belts at all. Sometimes they team with different people, and sometimes they focus on their solo careers (Luger is also the WCW TV champion and has come close to winning the WCW World title), but if they're not defending the belts, they shouldn't be ranked too high. In fact, in several issues of *PWI Weekly*, we didn't list Sting and Luger at all in our tag team ratings.

Say what you will about the skills of the Godwinns, Bodydonnas, and Gunns, but when they have held the belts, they have always defended them regularly. And remember that none of our ratings is based purely on skill. In other words, we're not necessarily saying the Godwinns are better than the Steiners or could beat them if the two teams wrestled each other.

That's it for now ... As always, if you have any questions or comments regarding our ratings in general or what you see in this column, we'd love to hear from you. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □



The Bushwhackers

PRO Wrestling Illustrated

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[NOTE: Cover stories noted in **boldface**.]

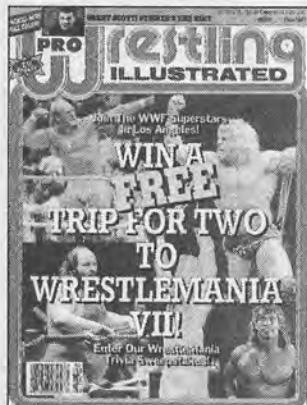
February 1988/CENTERFOLD: Ronnie Garvin. **Savage & Elizabeth**, Garvin, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1989/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steiner. **Randy Savage**, Ted Turner, Richter, Paul E., Powers of Pain.

December 1990/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **New WWF Blood**, Four Horsemen, Kerry, Doom, Gilbert, Slaughter.

January 1991/CENTERFOLD: Kerry Von Erich. **WWF vs. NWA**, Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri & Warrior.

February 1991/CENTERFOLD: 1991 calendar. **WrestleMania**, Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Steiner, Power & Glory.



May 1991/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **Hulk Hogan**, Rude, Flair, Sting, Thez.

June 1991/CENTERFOLD: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, Cactus, Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiner.

January 1993/CENTERFOLD: Jeff Jarrett. **Flair/Summerslam**, Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich interview.

February 1993/CENTERFOLD: Curt Hennig. **Ramon**, Snuka-Muraco, Rude, Rhodes, Roberts interview.

April 1993/CENTERFOLD: Barry Windham. **Steiners**, Backlund, Sting-Muta, Hawk-Sasaki.

November 1993/CENTERFOLD: The Steiners. **WCW Midyear Report**, Doink, Funk-Gilbert, Race, Yokozuna.

January 1994/CENTERFOLD: Jerry Lawler. **Doink**, Nasty Boys, Steiners, Comette, Vicious.

May 1994/CENTERFOLD: Tatanka. **Yokozuna-Luger**, Flair-Vader, Heenan, WrestleMania retrospective.

July 1994/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steamboat. **Razor Ramon**, Flair-Regal, Cactus, Lawler, Yokozuna workout.

August 1994/CENTERFOLD: Doink & Dink. **Bret Hart/WrestleMania X**, Steiners, Albano, steroid trial.

November 1994/CENTERFOLD: Randy Savage. **Hogan In WCW**, Cactus, Yokozuna, Lawler, Michaels, Jake.

Winter 1994/CENTERFOLD: Terry Funk. **Hulkamania Wild Again**, McMahon, Vicious, AAA, Flair.

January 1995/CENTERFOLD: Razor Ramon. **Tatanka**, Hogan, Alundra, ECW vs. NWA, Brian Lee.

February 1995/CENTERFOLD: Johnny B. Badd. **WCW Civil War**, Pillman & Austin, Abdullah, Bret Hart.

April 1995/CENTERFOLD: Sabu. **WWF Title Turmoil**, Hogan, Cornette, Diesel, Alundra, Rhodes.

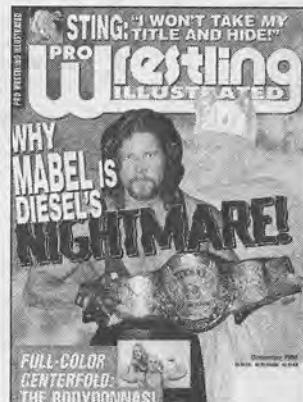
May 1995/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **Diesel**, Savage, Sabu, Hogan-Beefcake, Vader, Owen Hart.

July 1995/CENTERFOLD: Bam Bam Bigelow. **Hulk Hogan**, Sullivan, USWA blood, Yokozuna, revitalize the WWF.

August 1995/CENTERFOLD: Big Van Vader. **Women In Wrestling**, Rottens, Sting-Hogan, Road Warriors.

October 1995/CENTERFOLD: Harlem Heat. **Razor Ramon**, ideal WWF champ, Flair, Savage, Ondorff.

November 1995/CENTERFOLD: Hulk Hogan. **Summerslam**, Vader, Michaels, Backlund, North Korea, ECW rules.



December 1995/CENTERFOLD: Bodydonna. **Diesel-Mabel**, Sting, Yokozuna, Savio, Regal-Eaton, Lawler-LeDuc.

January 1996/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **WWF vs. WCW**, Diesel & Shawn, Luger, Summerslam.

February 1996/CENTERFOLD: Shawn Michaels. **Randy Savage**, Hogan, Gangstas-Public Enemy, Austin.

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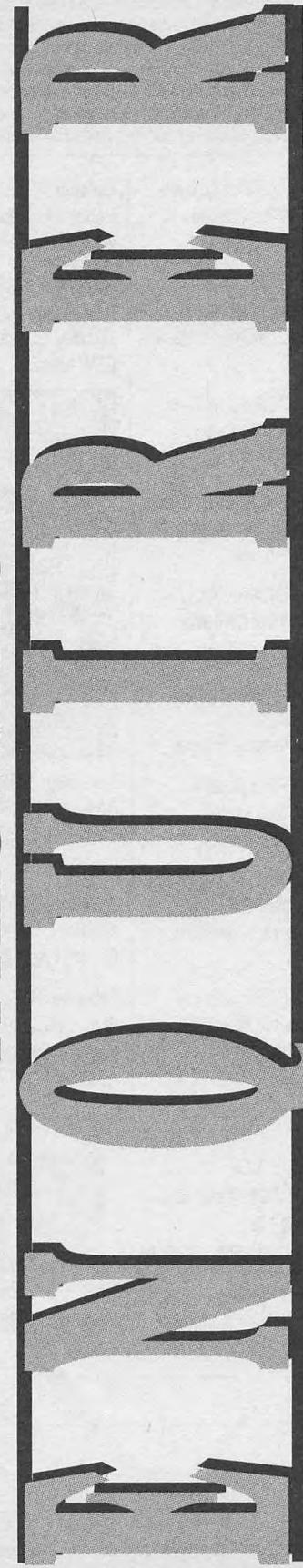
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PILLMAN GOES BERSEK AT WWF PRESS CONFERENCE “Loose Cannon” Destroys Entire Room

By LIZ HUNTER

STAMFORD, CT—He may have moved on to a new federation, but Brian Pillman is still the “Loose Cannon.”

Pillman’s unpredictable personality got him into a lot of trouble with promoters and some of his fellow wrestlers during his last few months in WCW, and he didn’t endear himself to many in the WWF when at a press conference announcing his signing, he berated WWF President Gorilla Monsoon, broadcaster Dok Hendrix, and several reporters, then went into a profanity-laced tirade before he and his entourage stormed out of the room.

It was a far cry from Pillman’s demeanor at the outset of the

event. When he first approached the podium, Pillman was very calm as he thanked the people who put together his contract and said he was just so happy to be part of the WWF. But when Hendrix attempted to ask him a question, he simply lost control.

“I was just so overcome with emotion on such a special day that I lost control of myself and my emotions,” Pillman said with a laugh a few days later. “My behavior was inexcusable. I’m so sorry, but this ‘Loose Cannon’ does whatever he wants to!”

Pillman also said that as soon as his injured ankle healed, he’d be looking for a shot at Shawn Michaels’ WWF title and that he would hound Monsoon until he got it.



One never knows when Brian Pillman is going to snap. He caught a lot of people off-guard (himself included) when he had a fit of madness at the WWF press conference announcing his signing.

Jim Cornette Scouting PG-13

By ANDY RODRIGUEZ

YARDVILLE, NJ—As if he doesn't already have enough men under contract to him in the WWF, Jim Cornette has gone on the road several times recently to look for new talent to bring to the WWF.

Cornette appeared in the corner of PG-13—Wolfie D and J.C. Ice—for several of their matches in the NWA in June, and he told reporters afterward that he liked what he saw from them. "They're very quick," Cornette said, "and they work together as a team so well. I like

these guys. I like them a lot. They have a real good future in front of them, and imagine how good they'd be if they had me in their corner every night."

Wolfie D and J.C. Ice do have minimal WWF experience already. They wrestled in the federation several times in 1995 and lost a closely contested match to The Smokin' Gunns. They also beat the Gunns by disqualification when Billy and Bart challenged them in the USWA.

"We hope to see more of Jim Cornette soon,

if you know what I mean," said Wolfie D. Wolfie D and J.C. Ice might soon be trading their stolen hubcaps for WWF tag team belts, if Jim Cornette decides to take over their careers.



TOKYO, JAPAN

Think there isn't enough wrestling on TV in America? They won't be thinking that in Japan come September, when a new channel called Fighting TV will become available. It will feature wrestling and martial arts 24 hours a day. The channel should give some of the smaller Japanese promotions some much-needed exposure.

SELKIRK, MANITOBA

The WWF certainly has more than its share of outlandish personalities (some of them too outlandish for the average fan's tastes), but IWA Hardcore Wrestling has one of the stranger tag teams in the world—and they hold the federation's tag team belts. Their names? The Male Nurse and Earl the Orderly. Not exactly monikers that would strike fear into any man's heart.

TATTORI, JAPAN

Though WCW requires him to defend its cruiserweight title on a regular basis in North America, Dean Malenko still makes regular trips to the Orient. On his most recent trip, he competed mainly in tag team competition, but several Japanese wrestlers have challenged him to defend the cruiserweight belt against them the next time he comes over. Malenko said he hopes to be able to do it.

Norton, Ice Train At Odds

By STEVE ANDERSON

GAINESVILLE, GA—One of the more promising new teams to enter WCW in 1996, Fire and Ice (Scott Norton and Ice Train), won't have much of a future if its two members can't work out the differences they've had recently.

Norton and Train started screaming at each other after they lost to Harlem Heat at a TV taping in June when indecision cost them dearly. Train appeared to have Stevie Ray pinned, but Norton asked to tag in. As those two argued, Ray struggled to his corner and tagged Booker T, who dropkicked Train into Norton, then wheelkicked Train and got a three-count.

After an argument, the two men appeared to make up and did leave the ring together, but several observers said they had also argued a few nights earlier after a loss to Rick and Scott Steiner.

"I have more experience than Train," Norton said. "He has to let me take charge of the team or we're going nowhere. It's that simple."

"I think maybe he should listen more to what I have to say," said Ice Train.

Doug Gilbert, Tommy Rich Split In USWA

By BRANDI MANKIEWICZ

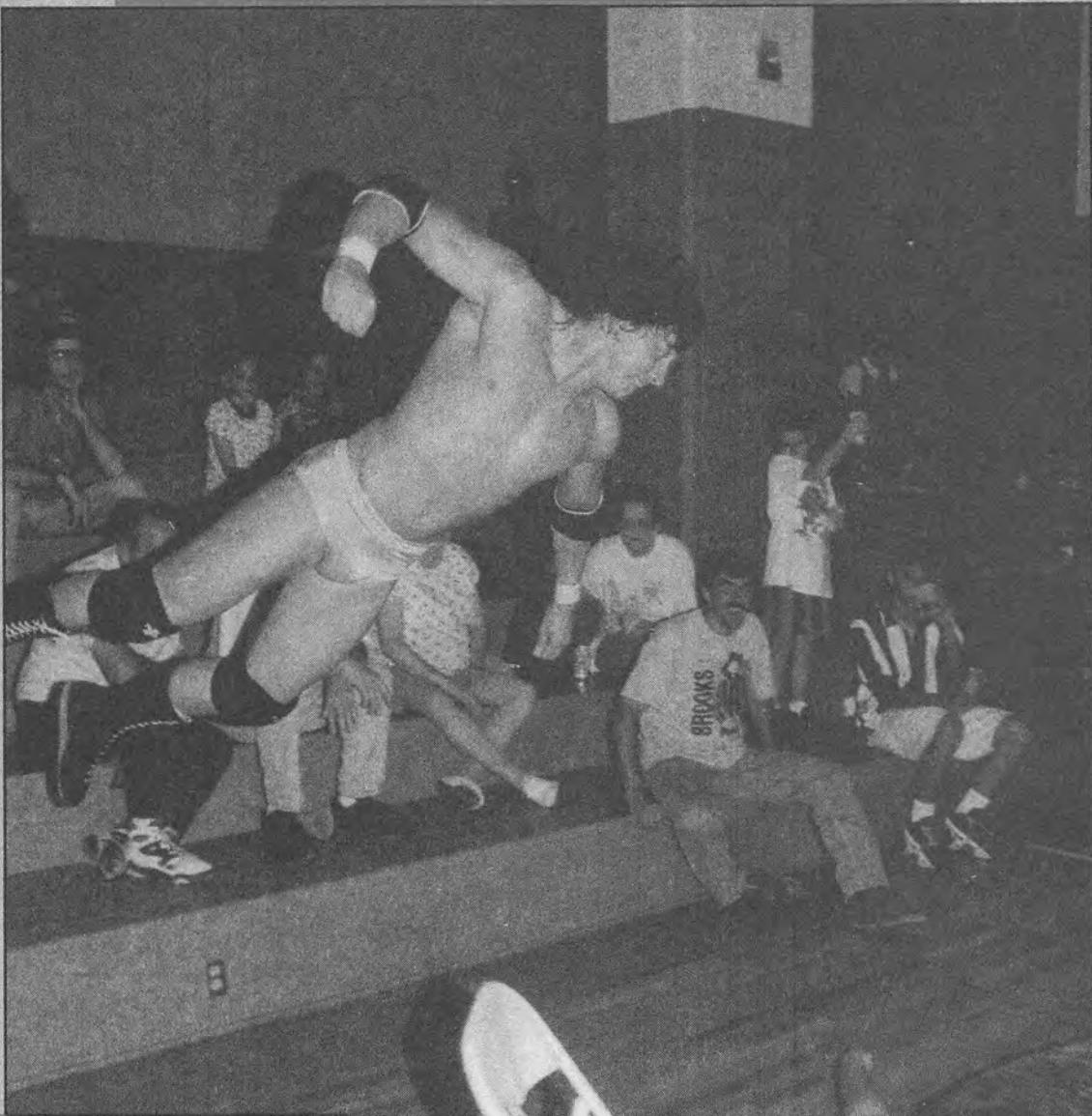
MEMPHIS, TN—A good friendship apparently came to an end when Tommy Rich turned against Doug Gilbert, a man with whom he has held the USWA tag team title, in order to join the camp of USWA heavyweight champ Jeff Jarrett.

Gilbert was just trying to help out his friend Brian Christopher when the trouble with Rich started. Christopher beat Jarrett by disqualification that night, but after referee Downtown Bruno (Harvey Wippleman) was knocked out, Jarrett, Tony Falk, and Frank Morell began beating him with the USWA belt. Gilbert quickly chased the three rulebreakers out of the ring, but Rich followed him slowly, and instead of helping Gilbert, he grabbed the belt, hit Christopher in the throat, then left the ring with Jarrett.

"Tommy Rich was one guy I thought I could trust," said Gilbert. "But he's just like anyone else. He'd sell out his family to make a buck."

"Jeff Jarrett lives the good life," said Rich. "I'd rather live the good life than hang around with Doug Gilbert."

HOT SHOT



Some fans in the South have already learned that when Ashley Hudson sets up a chair or two outside a wrestling ring, it's not because he wants to sit down. He might stand up on them, but usually only for a second or two. Then he'll leap off the chair and attack his weary opponent with a flying fistdrop ... or another aerial move of his choice. This time, it was Big John White on the receiving end of Hudson's unusual flying leap launched from a chair that is out of view.

Photo by Steve Bryant

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